



Editor—David Laing 0407 791 822

“SITREP, OVER!”

SEPTEMBER 2012



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

• Inside this issue

- AGM 2012 Report
- JUST SOLDIERS
- Remembering a mate
- SA Aviation Museum
- Change of Guard at RSL (SA)
- In the RAP
- End of Year BBQ
- Metro Members List

NEXT LUNCH DATE

An association lunch will be held at the Royal Hotel, 1 North Tce Kent Town, on **12th October** at Noon.

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

Our most sincere thanks go to Ian Carnachan for handling our lunch bookings for the past 3 years. We couldn't have enjoyed our lunches without Ian's help.
Thanks Ian.

2012 AGM REPORT

by Alan Hook

The AGM was well received at the SA Sea Rescue Squadron HQ, West Beach, with 35 in attendance and a further 20 apologies.

The venue was superbly set up by Barry Pollard and his team from the SRS HQ ably supported by members of the Association.

After a hot tea/coffee all members and ladies gathered for the business of the day.

After receiving reports (copies of which are available from the Secretary on davidlaing49@bigpond.com) the meeting moved to the election of officers.

President Alan Hook thanked the outgoing committee and executive. VP Graham Gilmour indicated his intention not to seek re-election as VP but will stay on committee, and members retiring and not seeking re-elections were Denis Ranger, Brian Main, John Rathmann and Ian Carnachan. The meeting acknowledged their support and effort and showed their appreciation.

Secretary David Laing and Treasurer Alan Orrock were not due for re-election and indicated their willingness to serve further. Their generous offer to hand over to someone else was not taken up and they received a warm acknowledgment from the meeting.

The new committee members were welcomed. They are Grant James, Frank Morony, Nat Cooke, Alex Klopff and Rod Beames. Their nominations were accepted en bloc.

Then followed a discussion on the matter of vice-president and president. Alan Hook indicated that he felt in the best interests of the Association that some-one else should assume the role of president. After Rod Beames indicated that he would be prepared to accept nomination for the position of vice president, the meeting agreed that Alan remain as President for another year to assist Rod in his transition to President in August 2013. This action was warmly endorsed by the meeting.

The Committee of Management for 2012 – 2013 is:	PRESIDENT:	Alan Hook
	VICE PRESIDENT:	Rod Beames
	SECRETARY:	David Laing
	TREASURER:	Alan Orrock

MEMBERS RETIRING 2013: Jim Thomson, Norm Tregenza, Norm Rathmann, Brian Preece.

MEMBERS RETIRING 2014: Grant James, Frank Morony, Nat Cooke, Alex Klopff.

HONORARY AUDITOR: Hayden Edwards.

Following the meeting a most enjoyable lunch was had following a tour of the Sea Rescue Squadron HQ. President Alan thanked Barry and his helpers for another outstanding effort on behalf of the Association.

JUST SOLDIERS

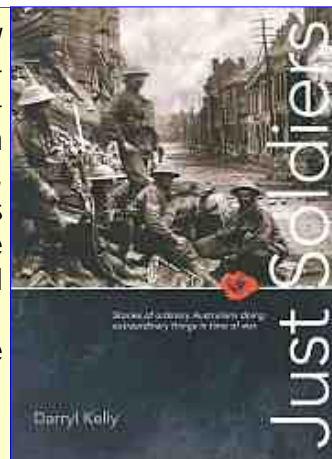
NEW

by WO1 Darryl Kelly

In 2009 my daughter lent me a book she had received as part of a Best Soldier Award from her Army unit. It was called “**Just Soldiers**” and was written by WO1 Darryl Kelly. “**Just Soldiers**” contains stories of ordinary Australians doing extraordinary things in time of war. In 1914, Australia had a population of fewer than 5 million, yet 300,000 from all walks of life volunteered to fight. Of these, more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. Through these stories, based on fact, the author has endeavoured to capture the essence of those who served Australia as members of the 1st Australian Imperial Force in the Great War of 1914-1918. As in life, not all were heroes. Illustrated with B&W images to depict the conditions under which these Australians lived and fought.

Excerpts from this book will be published over the next few months in this newsletter, starting with the story of Captain Benjamin Brodie, the WW1 “Passchendaele Raider.”

I hope you enjoy reading these stories as much as I have in publishing them. **David Laing—Editor**





JUST SOLDIERS

Captain Benjamin Brodie

As the officers and sergeants sat in the dimly lit dugout, the etched features of the Commanding Officer (CO) were accentuated in the eerie light cast by the hurricane lamp. The men listened intently as he presented the plan in intricate detail. After each was assigned his task, the CO looked at the captain and said, ‘Brodie, you’ll be leading our blokes’.

Benjamin Greenup Brodie was a stalwart of the unit. He had enlisted as a private and from the earliest days displayed the leadership qualities that led to his rapid promotion through the ranks. Ben was posted to the 34th Battalion AIF and left Sydney, bound for the United Kingdom, in May 1916. The battalion spent several months training before crossing to France in late November where the men were soon in the trenches of the Western Front—just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916–17. As they made their way up the line on their first night in combat, Brodie stood alongside the duckboard as the troops filed past. ‘No smoking, no talking’, he whispered. When the line ground to a halt, a nervous young Digger asked, ‘You think we’ll see any action tonight, Sarge?’ ‘Don’t worry, mate. We’ll see it soon enough.’ In the ensuing months, their actions in the trenches of Armentieres, at Messines, and their strike against the Oosttaverne Line established the 34th as formidable fighters, but their ‘apprenticeship’ came at a terrible cost—the loss of so many young Australian lives. The men of the 34th became experts in the art of trench-raiding. Under the cover of an artillery barrage, the Diggers would sortie forward, rush the German trenches, snatch prisoners and blow up strong points, before vanishing back into the night. These incursions were devised primarily to identify opposing German units and, by the surprise of the attacks, keep the enemy off balance. Many a German spent a sleepless night clutching his rifle and jumping at every noise, fearful that he might be snatched at any time by the Australian raiders. When his platoon commander was killed, Brodie assumed command. The men immediately accepted the leadership change as Ben already had earned their trust and respect. Their faith in his judgement and common sense approach to soldiering was imperative, as their lives were in his hands. In October, the battalion was engaged in the battle around Passchendaele.

Heavy rains had reduced the area to a quagmire, the thick mud hampering movement and fouling weapons. The battle was a disastrous defeat for the Allies and the 34th Battalion suffered casualties of higher than 50 percent. Following the Passchendaele campaign, the men were sent to the rear for a ‘rest’—to enjoy warm billets and dry clothes for the first time in months. During the break, the commanding officer called Brodie into his office and passed an envelope to the sergeant. A very proud Brodie discovered the contents to be two pips—he had been commissioned as a second lieutenant.

A brief stint at the Officers’ Training School at Amiens followed, then it was back in the line for the young platoon commander. He was popular amongst the troops who regarded him as one of the boys, but one who was not averse to delivering a severe reprimand when necessary.

Brodie was a tyrant in battle, moving his men forward to seize one objective after another, so it was not surprising that he was soon promoted to lieutenant. On one occasion, he led the company to its objective when the officer commanding was taken out of the action. In early 1918, he was promoted to captain and took over as second in command of C Company.



France. January 1917. Australians of the 5th Division crossing a frozen trench

At the beginning of March, the 34th Battalion occupied the front line as part of the 9th Brigade. On the night of 3 March, a brigade raid consisting of ten officers and 225 men attacked the German trenches. The raiders killed more than 50 of the enemy and captured an officer and ten men, before retiring to the safety of their own lines.

As the commanders contemplated their next move, they agreed the best strategy was to repeat the action the following night—the Germans would never expect them to hit the same place two nights in a row.

That day, his company commander summoned Brodie to his dugout. ‘Warning order, Ben. We’ve got a manoeuvre on tonight and our company’s drawn the short straw. Make all preparations, will you? And by the way, you’ll be leading the push.’

Brodie passed on the information to his platoon commanders and then settled into his dugout to get some rest. Too stimulated to sleep, he reached into his pack and extracted his writing pad to start a letter to his wife. Later, the commanding officer conducted the briefing on the plan of attack for the night’s raid, which was to be the same strength as the night before.

‘Sergeant Mudford, you’ll take the covering party on the left flank. You’ll have the Lewis guns, the bombers and plenty of bombs. The right flank will be handled by the 33rd. ‘Lieutenant Fell, you’ll have the taping party and support Sergeant Nunn with the demolition charges. ‘Brodie, you’ll be leading our blokes—about a hundred in all. Your mission is to blow up the tunnels and the dugouts, capture whoever you can and get the hell out. And don’t worry, we’ll have artillery support. The barrage starts at 0050 hours. Any questions?’

By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, *Just Soldiers*, ADCC Publications, Brisbane pp 35 to 40 **Part 2 next month**



2012 AGM & lunch



The Executive Committee
L - R: Graham Gilmour, David Laing, Alan Hook & Alan Orrock



Dom & Ian Carnachan



Rodney Beames, Alan Hook, Philippa Hook & Don Field



L-R: Roma Mitchell, Yvonne Marcus, Raelene Main, Julie Elliott, Anne McCullagh & Pat Lee.

Remembering a mate - The wake for Col Douglas



A celebration of Col Douglas' life was held at the Combined Services Mess Torrens Training Depot on Friday 20th July, and was well attended by about 60 ex-serving colleagues and members of Col's family. MAJ Denis "Tex" Ranger spoke of Col and his "individual" style of soldiering, and showed a movie of the 10/27 RSAR Linking Parade, where Col displayed some never-before-seen unorthodox, but snappy drill movements. MAJGEN Neil Wilson recounted his memories of Col as a Senior NCO who always took the bull by the horns. And not necessarily his own bull! Col's sister Geraldine said that although she knew little about Col's military career, due to his habit of not talking much about himself, she now understood just how well he was admired by the number of guests at the wake, and their lasting memories of him.

In a tribute to Col, his wine collection was raffled off, with some guests able to take home a lasting memory of a good mate. The proceedings of the raffle will be donated to the Army Museum of SA where he was a member. Gone, but never forgotten. R I P mate!

David Laing - Editor



Change of Guard at RSL (SA)



The RSL (SA) has elected a former peacekeeper as its new president.

Brigadier Tim Hanna, 52, will replace Vietnam veteran Jock Statton, who has served in the role for eight years.

"I aim to engage all the generations who have served - not just my era (1977-99) but also those before and those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and the peacekeepers in places like East Timor and the Solomon's," Brigadier Hanna said.

He said he was not from a military family but his partner Suzie is on active service in the Solomon Islands and she has one son who served in Afghanistan and another in the RAAF.

Brigadier Hanna was born in Gumeracha and graduated from the Royal Military College in 1980. During the first Gulf War, he was appointed senior liaison officer on the Golan Heights, where the Israeli army occasionally fired warning shots to keep his team away from sensitive areas on the border with Lebanon.

He wants to update the organisation's image and said a restructuring could involve amalgamations.

The Committee of Management and members of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association congratulate Brigadier Hanna on his appointment, and wish him well in this role in the future.

Adelaide Now—1st July 2012

IN THE RAP



In the RAP is John "Feets" Rathmann who is having a hip replacement after an infection laid him low for a while. "Feets" daughter is down from the Northern Territory to take care of him for a while, and urges friends and other members to call in to see him if they have the time. He's in St Margaret's Hospital, Military Road, Semaphore, and visitors would be most welcome.

GET WELL SOON, FEETS!!

RSARA visit to the SA Aviation Museum 22nd September

The 2nd function for Association members this year will take place on Saturday 22nd September at the **SA Aviation Museum at 66 Lipson Street Port Adelaide**. The museum contains aircraft of many vintages, including a full scale Supermarine Spitfire MKVC, an English Electric Canberra WK 165 and a Douglas C47B Dakota. Many other exhibits are on show, with the gift shop open for the sale of souvenirs. The entry fee is \$9 adults and \$7 concessional, payable on entry. Members are welcome to attend the Lighthouse Hotel for lunch at the conclusion of the tour. (*No booking required for lunch*). The Aviation Museum tour starts at **1030 hours** and **members should book with Norm Rathmann on 0448 460 884 by 1st Sept at the latest.**

C U there!!

Cpl Knuckles says...



Some more stuff me Mum told me when I was a little tacker!

23. **Me mother tort me about my ROOTS.**

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

24. **Me mother tort me WISDOM.**

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

And me favourite:

25. **Me mother tort me about JUSTICE**

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

But, there is one missing from this list. Me personal all time favourite!

Me mother tort me about CHOICE.

"Do you want me to stop this car?"

See youse next month!



HOW TO CONTACT US

All correspondence to:
The Secretary David Laing
PO Box 222 Para Hills SA 5096

Phone: 0407 791 822

E-mail: davidlaing49@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**

MV "Tickety boo"



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 this year will be held in Murray Bridge!

This years BBQ will be held at the Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge on Sunday 16th December. The Association has chartered 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 trip will be totally 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, BYO drinks and chairs. Some 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 may wish to have a cold lunch and salads. Toilets are also available at the reserve.

There are only 24 seats available, therefore members wishing to travel on the bus are asked to contact Norm Rathmann on 0448 460 884 to reserve their seat before 1st November.

Members travelling by bus are asked to meet outside the 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!!!

Little known facts about well-known things

The Septic Tank

Invented by Peter Skimmings, a missionary from Lismore, for the betterment of New Guinea natives along the Sepik River, it took the world by storm. Having made a fortune out of the septic tank, Skimmings later lost it all in his unsuccessful attempt to market the triple flush toilet.

Vegemite

Formerly Vegemite was dripped on boils. It came in a stick form and mothers lit matches and dripped it on sores. Unfortunately, and we are not sure who, a young student picked these off and put it on a sandwich. Vegemite, as we know it today in its whipped form, was born.

The Ugh Boot

Invented by Jaros Ugh, a Hungarian refugee working on the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme, for use in the explosives section where the merest spark could set off a whole mountain. His name, coincidentally, in Hungarian means 'walking whisper'. Today the Ughs are one of the wealthiest families in the nation and the dynasty, headed by famous socialite Lady Ugh, devotes it-self to miniaturizing koalas.

The Victa Motor Mower

Named after Victor Mature, the hirsute film star. The earliest model was a modified Vespa which Mary Bright of Southport had nagged her husband into adapting for her needs. She convinced Mr Bright to name the invention after seeing Victor Mature getting his hair clipped in Samson and Delilah.

XXXX

The Fourex family, Xenon, Xerox, Xerxes and Xhosa (adopted) were four brothers who came over from Greece on the Patris, created the XXXX brewery and then set out to marry daughters of the four great brewers of Australia: Resch, Tooth, Toohey and Fosters. Many of the beer glasses still popular today bear the nicknames of their brides: Midi, Pony, Schooner, and Pot.



RSARA (Metro) Members

Ayles, Jeff
 Attenborough, Geoff
 Baldwin, Bob
 Bates, Allan
 Beames, Rod
 Boath, Ian
 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
 # Jeffrey, Scott
 Johnson, Barry

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
 Morony, Frank
 Moore, Jeffrey
 Oliver, Peter
 Orrock, Alan
 Ockenden, Marc
 Oswald, John
 Pollard, Barry
 Phillips, Don
 Payne, Bob
 Parslow, Howard
 Preece, Brian
 Ranger, Denis
 Rathmann, John
 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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Caccilla, Carmen
 Carnachan, Dom
 Demosani, Gail
 Elliott, Julie
 Eva, Gail
 # Field, Shirley
 Gill, Maureen
 Gilmour, Helen
 Hawking, Lorraine
 Hook, Phillipa
 Hudson, Margaret
 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

123 members as at 24/08/12