



“SITREP, OVER!”



Official Newsletter of The Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

MARCH 2013

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Australia in the Vietnam War

Part 2

The following year the Australian government felt that Australia's involvement in the conflict should be both strong and identifiable. In March 1966 the government announced the dispatch of a task-force to replace 1RAR, consisting of two battalions and support services (including a RAAF squadron of Iroquois helicopters), to be based at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy province. Unlike 1RAR, the task-force was assigned its own area of operations and included conscripts who had been called up under the National Service Scheme, introduced in 1964. All nine RAR battalions served in the task-force at one time or another, before it was withdrawn in 1971; at the height of the Australian involvement it numbered some 8,500 troops. A third RAAF squadron (of Canberra jet bombers) was also committed in 1967, and destroyers of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) joined US patrols off the North Vietnamese coast. The RAN also contributed a clearance diving team and a helicopter detachment that operated with the US Army from October 1967.

In August 1966 a company of 6RAR was engaged in one of Australia's heaviest actions of the war, in a rubber plantation near Long Tan. The 108 soldiers of D Coy held off an enemy force, estimated at over 2000, for four hours in the middle of a tropical downpour. They were greatly assisted by a timely ammunition resupply by RAAF helicopters, close fire support from Australian artillery, and the arrival of reinforcements in APCs as night fell. The armoured vehicles had been delayed because they had to 'swim' across a flooded creek and fight through groups of enemy on the way. When the



Viet Cong withdrew at night fall they left behind 245 dead, but carried away many more casualties. Seventeen Australians were killed and 25 wounded, with one dying of wounds several days later.

The year 1968 began with a major offensive by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army, launched during the Vietnamese lunar new year holiday period, known as "Tet". Not only the timing but the scale of the offensive came as a complete surprise, taking in cities, towns, and military installations throughout South Vietnam. While the "Tet Offensive" ultimately

ended in military defeat for the communists, it was propaganda victory. US military planners began to question if a decisive victory could ever be achieved and the offensive stimulated US public opposition to the war. For Australian troops, the effects of the offensive were felt around their base at Nui Dat, where a Viet Cong attack on targets around Ba Ria, the provincial capital, was repulsed with few casualties.

Sourced from www.awm.gov.au

Part 3 next month

UPCOMING LUNCH DATES & CoM Meetings

LUNCHES

- 25th April (ANZAC Day)
- 28th June
- 25th October
- 15th December

CoM MEETINGS

- 24th May
 - 27th September
- The location and timings of all events will be published in the monthly newsletter.

Thought for the day

"Jesus loves you."

A nice gesture in church.

A horrific thing to hear in a Mexican prison.

NEWS FLASH! Member Alex Klopff has created a World Record at the Torrens Training Depot Olympics by high-diving from the top of the Foyer Steps, and completing a triple somersault with Pike and 1/2 twist! Alex avoided serious injury, as he landed on his head!!! Jokes aside, Alex dislocated his shoulder and suffered abrasions to his hands and knees. While Paramedics were treating him, he phoned his wife Josie (in true Alex fashion) and was heard to say, *"yeah, yeah, I'm alright, took a fall and cut me thumb and knee, it looks like I've dislocated me shoulder - I'm expected to live!!!"* It proves you just can't keep a good man down!!



Pte Edward Elart

A man with a secret

JUST SOLDIERS

The young sailor stared pensively at the dark grey outline of the battle cruiser moored alongside the pier. A million thoughts ran through his mind as he stood transfixed, as if in a trance. A passing sailor stumbled against him and muttered, 'Come on mate, better get aboard'. His reverie interrupted, the young seaman turned away from the ship and jogged towards a waiting tram.

'WAR!'—this was the bold headline that dominated the front pages of newspapers around the country. It was the topic of conversation in every home, pub, shop and factory as young Australian men from all walks of life flocked to the recruiting depots to sign up for service overseas. A hastily assembled force of soldiers and sailors was already preparing to sail to seize German assets to Australia's north.

As eager young volunteers skirted around him, a young man paused and stared intently at the building that housed Naval Headquarters. He was poised to go in, but, on the threshold, he changed his mind. Instead, he turned on his heel and headed towards the military barracks down the road, where some time later he stood before the officer, raised his right hand and pledged, 'I, Edward Elart, do hereby swear...'

Edward had been allocated to the newly raised 1st Battalion AIF and, along with the other volunteers who also had enlisted that day, he marched to the temporary barracks at Randwick Racecourse. In the early days of the Great War, uniforms and equipment were in short supply, and many of the new recruits commenced their initial training wearing their civilian clothes, drilled by uniformed non-commissioned officers of the permanent forces. Eventually, Edward lined up to receive his first issue of the coarse woollen tunic and breeches, and an oversized hat that the quartermaster sergeant ceremoniously jammed on his head.

Days drifted into weeks during which time the battalion was slowly whipped into shape. Edward enjoyed the close contact with the other recruits and soon had plenty of new friends. He worked hard to prove his worth and whenever a volunteer was required, Edward was among the first to raise his hand. Soon the waiting and anticipation to put their training into practice was over. The order came, 'We're breaking camp and moving to the docks tomorrow'. As the lines of khaki-clad figures marched proudly towards waiting ships, a group of sailors stood at the roadside to watch the 'gravel crushers' pass by. Edward quickly turned his head the other way as he drew near them.

With the rest of the Division, the 1st Battalion was bound for the training camps in Egypt. As the ship plied its way across the Great Australian Bight, Elart spent hours standing by the railing, staring at the ocean as it surged past the side of the ship. His mates noticed that he always seemed preoccupied when not actively involved in training. Life in Egypt and their exposure to so many new sights, sounds and smells was akin to an exotic adventure for the young Diggers. They found plenty to keep them occupied on leave in nearby Cairo. They bought souvenirs to send home to family and friends, enjoyed drink that was cheap and plentiful, and for the more adventurous, the brothels in the local Wassers provided other forms of entertainment—delights that many a youngster had never before experienced. Such 'pleasure' however, also often left them with a dose of disease that was not quite so enjoyable.

Before long, the Division was on the move again. The troops boarded ships at Alexandria and headed east across the Mediterranean towards Turkey. On Saturday 24 April 1915, after a brief layover at Lemnos Island, the convoy set sail for the Gallipoli Peninsula.³ The Diggers aboard the ships spent the hours before the dawn landing in a variety of ways. Some attended religious services, some wrote letters, the experienced bushmen broke up crates to provide a supply of firewood to carry ashore, and others, like Elart, spent the time contemplating what lay in store for them. As the landing boat nudged the shore, the Diggers leaped out. Some made it to the relative safety of the cliffs, others lay face-down on the bloody sand. Some didn't even get out of the boats before Turkish machine-guns cut them to pieces.

The platoon was ordered to move up the cliffs, self-preservation their prime objective as enemy bullets caused havoc among the ANZACs struggling to reach some form of shelter. When they reached the top of the cliffs, they moved forward by sections and were ordered by the officer to dig in along the ridge.

Part 2 next month

By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, Just Soldiers, ADCC Publications, Brisbane, pg 89 to 93



The TEN Shortest Wars in History

No. 9

Number 9. Polish/Lithuanian War - 37 days



Year Fought: 1920
Between: Second Polish Republic vs Lithuania
Outcome: Polish victory
This war was fought not long after both nations had regained their independence. It was a part of wider conflict over the disputed cities of Vilnius, Suwałki and Augustów. Poland claimed victory and signed an agreement to stop hostilities, but reneged shortly after and created the puppet state of the Republic of Central Lithuania. Centered around the historical capital of Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Vilnius,

the state was short-lived and did not gain international recognition. For eighteen months the entity served as a buffer state between Poland, upon which it depended, and Lithuania, which claimed the area. Finally, on March 24, 1922, following the general elections held there, it was annexed to Poland. The elections were not recognized by the Republic of Lithuania.

Next month: - Second Balkans War

MEMBERS SURVEY

Your response is critical to our future

All members are invited to participate in this short survey, which will be used to enhance the services we provide. Either email your response and comments to the editor or drop him a line by snail mail to our postal address.

1. Would you attend an association lunch if we met:- Once a month Once every 2 months Once a quarter.
2. Should we patronise a local RSL for our lunches and CoM meetings? YES NO (If Yes, your suggestions?)
3. Do we need more than 3 weekend functions per year? YES NO (If yes, how many and where?)
4. Are you happy with the Annual Membership Fees of \$20? YES NO (If NO what should they be?)
5. Could we be doing more for our members? YES NO (If YES, what can we do?)
6. Should we seek more interaction with our serving battalion, 10/27 Battalion RSAR?
 YES NO (If yes, how can we achieve this?)
7. Should we include our Associate Members in our day-to-day running of the association, including voting rights?
 YES NO (If yes, how can we achieve this?)
8. Do you enjoy this newsletter every month, or prefer not to receive it? Enjoy Don't enjoy

We are bound by the guidelines of our Constitution, however, with guidance from the Committee of Management and support of the members, the Constitution can be changed to reflect the aims and goals of the Association.

Your support in completing this survey is the start of making our Association a better place for ALL members and their families.

Your name (Optional).....



ANZAC DAY 2013 WARNING ORDER!

This year we aim to field a record number of marchers from our association. In 2012 we proudly marched alongside 50 of our comrades, the largest number ever since the inception of the association. We would like even more members this year. The RSAR Association have received the "ANZAC Day 2012 Order of March" and it contains some minor changes from previous years.

As in previous years we will march in Group 12A, and the Forming Up Point (FUP) will be on Grenfell Street, west of Pulteney Street, but moves from the northern side to the southern side. It is presumed the Start Time for us to commence marching will be approximately 1100 hrs. however we will publish more up-to-date information in the April Sitrep.

Following the march members can make their way to the QUEEN'S HEAD, Kermode Street, North Adelaide for lunch. Bookings are essential!!!



Contact [NORM RATHMANN](mailto:normrathmann@normgeelong@yahoo.com) NOW for lunch bookings on 0448 460 884 or normgeelong@yahoo.com .NO BOOKING, NO SEAT!

DRESS STANDARD (optional) is:

- Medals, as awarded
 - Medals of NOK on right breast
 - Blue blazer or jacket
 - Regimental tie
 - Beret with RSAR badge or hat
 - Grey trousers
 - Sense of humour
- OR

Whatever you are wearing at the time.

FULL UPDATE IN APRIL NEWSLETTER



CPL Knuckles says.....



Me Mum tort me some important stuff when I wuz a kid. Here's sum!

oo00oo

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Gardening Rule : When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.

There are two kinds of pedestrians : the quick and the dead.

Hehehehe!!!

See youse next month





Change, or disappear!

EDITORIAL

I have been reading the RSL SA Newsletter, which contains an article by State President, Brigadier Tim Hanna. I find his thoughts interesting, in that to some extent they (the RSL) mirror the situation facing our association.

RSL SA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brigadier Hanna says....

"I have been listening to the views of our members while also making my own thoughts known. The great American educationalist, W. Edward Deming, succinctly stated 'It is not necessary to change as survival is not mandatory.' In other words, if the RSL does not change it will not survive. The choice is ours. However, the RSL is not here to merely survive. We need to thrive. Our job, unfortunately, will continue for many years and, each time our Government commits our servicemen and women to operations, the requirement for the RSL to step forward and assist will be required. As such, we must change."

The RSAR Association is fairly unique, in that we represent a Regiment that has only one serving battalion, the 10/27th Battalion RSAR, but have only 3 serving members of that battalion amongst our ranks. In the past, our members came from the 43rd/48th Battalion, 50th Battalion, and 1st, SA Scottish, 10th, 27th, 43rd and 10/27th Battalions of the Royal South Australia Regiment. With the exception of the 10/27th, we will never see these battalions again. And therein lies our quandary.

Our numbers have been growing steadily since 2010, and we can attribute this to word-of-mouth recommendations, the new website, our Facebook page, and to a certain extent, this newsletter. However, our growth will soon come to a halt, and then start to decline as our members leave to join that "Regiment in the sky" or just fade away into the sunset. In the words of Brigadier Hanna ".....as such, we must change!"

Many other ex-services associations have ceased to exist in recent years, just because their membership is shrinking due to natural attrition, and they have had no way of recruiting new members. The RSAR Association has that chance to continue growth, by recruiting more men and women from the current serving battalion, and they in turn will become the Association of the future.

RSARA President (Metro) Alan Hook has previously stated that we must "change the way we do our business, to ensure our survival," and that change must start now, not yesterday!

David Laing - Editor

Are you a Financial Member?

At last years reunion of former members of 43 RSAR, we signed up 19 new members, and this provided a much needed boost to our numbers. Those 19 paid their fees for 2012/13, and were assured that they would not have to renew their membership until the AGM in 2013. That gave them an extra 7 months of membership, a move which was to reward them for their patronage.

The majority of all members are paid up until the AGM this year, but we appear to have a few "stragglers" whose fees may have slipped their minds!

We aren't desperate for the funds, but they ARE crucial to our Mission, which includes, in part, supporting the serving soldiers of 10/27 Battalion RSAR by the way of awards, prizes and other incentives!

If you haven't paid your fees since the AGM in 2012, you are now LONG OVERDUE, as the next batch of fees will be due on or before the 2013 AGM in August.

If you are unsure if you have paid your fees, ask the Treasurer or Secretary, and we will advise you accordingly.

To pay by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) our details are:-

ANZ Account Number 4824 41406. BSB 015 211
 Make sure you include your name as an identifier!

To pay by cheque or Money Order simply place in a stamped envelope marked:-

The Secretary, David Laing,
RSAR Association Inc
Riverglen Marina RSD 3152A
Jervois Rd Murray Bridge
S.A. 5253

If you require a receipt, please indicate this, and we shall get one to you.

If you are having increasing problems paying your yearly fees, take heart! Some members have recently paid for up to 5 years fees in one go, thereby saving themselves the task for a further 5 years. Or, we can go one better. For \$200 you can sign on as a Life Member and NEVER HAVE TO PAY FEES AGAIN!!!

So many choices, so little time left to pay!



You talking to me?





Aboriginal Australians at War



Part 1

Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders have fought for Australia, from the Boer War onwards.

Change in attitudes

Generally, Indigenous Australians have served in ordinary units with the same conditions of service as other members. Many experienced equal treatment for the first time in their lives in the army or other services. However, upon return to civilian life, many also found they were treated with the same prejudice and discrimination as before.

First World War

Over 400 Indigenous Australians fought in the First World War. They came from a section of society with few rights, low wages, and poor living conditions. Most Indigenous Australians could not vote and none were counted in the census. But once in the AIF, they were treated as equals. They were paid the same as other soldiers and generally accepted without prejudice.

Enlistment and Service First World War

When war broke out in 1914, many Indigenous Australians who tried to enlist were rejected on the grounds of race; others slipped through the net. By October 1917, when recruits were harder to find and one conscription referendum had already been lost, restrictions were cautiously eased. A new Military Order stated: "Half-castes may be enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force provided that the examining Medical Officers are satisfied that one of the parents is of European origin."

This was as far as Australia – officially – would go.

Why did they fight?

Loyalty and patriotism may have encouraged Indigenous Australians to enlist. Some saw it as a chance to prove themselves the equal of Europeans or to push for better treatment after the war.

For many Australians in 1914 the offer of 6 shillings a day for a trip overseas was simply too good to miss.

Too dark

Indigenous Australians in the First World War served on equal terms but after the war, in areas such as education, employment, and civil liberties, Aboriginal ex-servicemen and women found that discrimination remained or, indeed, had worsened during the war period.

The Post First World War Period

Only one Indigenous Australian is known to have received land under a "soldier settlement" scheme, despite the fact that much of the best farming land in Aboriginal reserves was confiscated for soldier settlement blocks.

The repression of Indigenous Australians increased between the wars, as protection acts gave government officials greater control over Indigenous Australians. As late as 1928 Indigenous Australians were being massacred in reprisal raids. A considerable Aboriginal political movement in the 1930s achieved little improvement in civil rights.

Enlistment and Service Second World War

To serve or not to serve

In 1939 Indigenous Australians were divided over the issue of military service. Some Aboriginal organisations believed war service would help the push for full citizenship rights and proposed the formation of special Aboriginal battalions to maximise public visibility.

Others, such as William Cooper, the Secretary of the Australian Indigenous Australians' League, argued that Indigenous Australians should not fight for White Australia. Cooper had lost his son in the First World War and was bitter that Aboriginal sacrifice had not brought any improvement in rights and conditions. He likened conditions in White-administered Aboriginal settlements to those suffered by Jews under Hitler. Cooper demanded improvements at home before taking up "the privilege of defending the land which was taken from him by the White race without compensation or even kindness".

PART 2 next month





METRO MEMBERS

Apostolides, Chris
 Attenborough, Geoff
 Ayles, Jeff
 Baldwin, Bob
 Bates, Allan
 Beames, Rod CoM
 Boath, Ian SM
 Boscence, Bob
 Brookes, Phil
 Brown, Bruce
 Brown, Harry
 Carnachan, Ian
 Castle, Graham
 Chittleborough, Jeff
 Cooke, Nat CoM
 Cotton, Bob
 #Dart, John
 Davey, John
 Davey, Trevor
 Davey, Jack
 Demosani, Tony
 Dubsky, Eddie
 Dunn, Peter
 Dunn, Bob
 Durdin, Russell
 Elliott, Graham
 Eva, Keith
 Ewens, Mimi (nee Kusmuk) SM
 Field, Don
 Flanagan, Ted
 Fridday, Ross
 Gaborit, Lyndon
 Genovese, John
 Gibson, Lindsay

Giles, John
 Gill, Alan
 Gilmore, Graham CoM
 Gordon, Frank
 Guerin, Rob
 Hawking, Don
 Hawkins, Des
 Hogan, Mark
 Hook, Alan LM CoM
 Hope, David
 Hudson, Rick
 James, Grant SM CoM
 Jeffrey, Scott SM
 Johnson, Barry
 Jolly, David
 Jones, Brett
 Kilford, Brian
 Klopf, Alex LM CoM
 Klopf, Paul
 Loveder, Peter
 Lockett, John
 Laing, David LM CoM
 Lampard, Ross
 Lee, Pat
 Longstaff, Paul
 Main, Brian
 Marcus, Ray
 Morony, Frank CoM
 Martin, Bob
 Matchett, Bill
 Mau, Mark
 McCulloch, Don
 McDougal, Doug
 McMullin, Jim
 Mitchell, Barry
 Mitchell, David
 Monro, Ron
 Moore, Jeffrey

Moore, Terry
 Oliver, Peter
 Orrock, Alan CoM
 Ockenden, Marc
 Oswald, John
 Pollard, Barry
 Phillips, Don
 Phillips, Trevor
 Payne, Bob
 Parslow, Howard
 Preece, Brian CoM
 Ranger, Denis
 Rathmann, Norm CoM
 Rathmann, John
 Ramm, Hank
 Robertson, Jim
 Rossetti, Lee
 Sage, Andrew
 Salamon, Peter
 Sanderson, Max
 Sprigg, Rob
 Standing, Michael
 Steer, Phil
 Stewart, Rob
 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
 # Dart, Caroline
 Demosani, Gail
 Elliott, Julie
 Eva, Gail
 Field, Shirley
 Gill, Maureen
 Gilmour, Helen
 Hawking, Lorraine
 Hook, Phillipa
 Hudson, Margaret
 Jolly, Sandra
 Jones, Associate
 Klopf, Josie
 Laing, June
 Lampard, Kay
 Lockett, Mrs
 Main, Raelene
 Marcus, Yvonne
 McCullagh, Anne
 Mitchell, Roma
 Phillips, Heather
 Sanderson, Lorraine
 Tregenza, Lyn

Denotes New Member
 LM denotes LIFE MEMBER
 SM denotes SERVING ADF MEMBER
 CoM denotes Member of COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

134 members as at 14/02/2013

HOW TO CONTACT US

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We now have our own website, which conveys our existence to the world. You can visit us by going to:

www.rsara.asn.au



Or click on the Facebook icon below:



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