



# "Sitrep, Over!"



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

**MARCH 2015**

**Volume 2, Issue 3**

## WE'VE DONE IT. **203** MEMBERS!

The RSAR Association Inc was borne out of the ashes of a previous attempt to unite old comrades of the Regiment. It failed for two reasons. Lack of communication, and lack of interest.

Under the guidance of Alan Hook, the Association was reborn in 2006, when he and a number of colleagues decided it was time to resurrect the hierarchy of friendship.

The move was successful, with about 30 members signing up in the first instance, and a couple here or there in the following years. In 2008 we had 56 members, and in the years after, we started our current newsletter and Facebook page, followed shortly after by the now well known website.

Recent moves by the Committee of Management under President Rodney Beames, voted on a motion that allowed the members of the 10th/27th Battalion Band to become **NON PAYING** members for the duration of their service with the Band. Their category will be noted as **BAND** in the list of members.

The offer was gladly taken up by Bandmaster SGT David Portakiewicz and the members of his team. This tipped our membership number over the 200 limit, and we now stand at 203 members at last count. (Committee Member SSGT Grant James has stepped down and has nominated SGT Portakiewicz as his replacement. The motion was voted on and accepted by the CoM on 23rd January.)

This is not only good news for us, but also for the battalion, as it gives us more lines of communication to the battalion and the band. Both have supported us in the past, and it's now time for us to pay back their support with free membership.

### Inside this issue:

OVER 200 CLUB.	1
An Experience of War FINAL PART	2
Just Soldiers - Trooper Scotty Bolton	2
ODD WW2 FACTS	4
Anzac Day 2015	5
AMOS needs YOU	5
ANZAC Day - Orders of the day	6



## An Experience of War

## FINAL PART

These recollections (in previous issues of Sitrep, Over!) describe my early experiences as a medic and some of 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion's first three months at war. Was I ever scared? Yes I was; and I was frequently bloody terrified.

General William Sherman was right when he said – War is Hell! I can only add that in my experience it is also violent, crude and obscene. But, for me as a well trained and fit young man it was also an adventure – an adventure I would not have wanted to miss and it was an experience that has shaped my life. Nonetheless, it has left me with a strong distaste of war but paradoxically, I have no regrets.

- As a medic I learned many things along the way; but these points stand out.
- Some casualties may die despite your best efforts.
- Hard realistic training in all conditions by day and by night gives the best preparation for war.
- Infantry skills are as vital as medical skills.
- Medics in remote areas must have the means to treat severe pain. Serious injury and even death can happen in training accidents.
- Tourniquets save lives.
- The human body has the capacity to absorb big hits and still survive.
- Medics hold a privileged position.
- The combination of inattention and a loaded weapon can be deadly.
- Old soldiers give leadership and wisdom to young soldiers.
- Australian soldiers are tough and courageous and so are American Dust Off pilots



*L to R. Rodney Cox, Tony Wynd, Geoff Jones, Bob 'Vic' Morrow at the June 2005 6 RAR reunion*

This story would be incomplete without further mention of my comrades-in-arms for whom I have unlimited respect and affection.

As a double amputee Len Usher couldn't go to Vietnam. He retrained as a clerk and remained in the army for several more years. He is now a grandfather and he hobby farms at Gin Gin in Qld

Bill Winterford still needs only one hand to smoke. He lives in the Clare Valley, South Australia where he is known to enjoy a good red.

Rodney Cox is a retired businessman and lives at Ganmain in the NSW Riverina.

Neill Lindsay recently passed away from liver cancer – a fighter to the end.

Within weeks of returning to Australia in 1967 brave Phil Crossingham and his wife and two children, were tragically killed in a car accident at Caboolture, Queensland.

John Winstone married Marsha and he now lives on the Sunshine Coast. His humour is as rich as ever and he continues to amuse us.

Phil Dobson, the heroic medic in D Company at the Battle of Long Tan is retired at Ipswich, Queensland.

Vic Morrow owns and operates a holiday resort in the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

*Major Geoff Jones*

Medic 6 RAR

South Viet Nam

## Just Soldiers      Trooper Sloan “Scotty” Bolton DCM      Part 5

The startled German tightened his grip on the detonation handle. Bolton cocked his revolver and put it to the German's forehead, overcoming the language barrier with one decisive stroke. Bolton's mate, Trooper Ray Hudson, came through the door and took charge of the prisoner. Although some wells had been destroyed and a few had been damaged, most were still intact, including reservoirs holding more than 400 000 litres.

Darkness was now settling over the captured town. Scotty emerged from the building into the growing dusk and remounted. A sudden movement caught his eye and, turning in his saddle, he saw a Turkish field gun and its six-man detachment, led by a German officer, galloping away from the town.

Digging his spurs into the Waler's side, he set off in pursuit of the gun, calling for help from an Australian officer who was dismounted nearby. He rode up alongside the German officer and called for him to halt, but was ignored. Scotty took aim, pulled the trigger and heard the click of the empty chamber. He then moved in closer and hit the German over the head, but, as the German was wearing a helmet, this did no more than hurt Bolton's hand and dent his pride. Next he thrust the butt of the revolver in the German's face, knocking him to the ground. Grabbing the reins of the lead horse, he slowed the team to a halt. Maintaining his bluff, he kept the Turks covered with the empty revolver, while the Australian officer rode up and took charge of the prisoners.

As they returned with their prize, retreating Turks threw down their weapons and joined Bolton's party. By the time they reached the town square, their numbers had swelled to more than 30. For his actions, Scotty Bolton was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, with a citation that hailed his conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.



AWM A02684. 'Thunder of a Light Horse charge'. The charge of the 4<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Brigade at Beersheba on 31 October 1917, taken by a Turk whose camera was captured later in the day.

Despite the ferocity of the attack, the casualties suffered by both regiments were relatively light, with only 31 killed and 36 wounded, most as a result of the savage hand-to-hand combat in the trenches. With the fall of Beersheba, the Desert Mounted Column forged its way across Palestine, the Turkish resistance crumbling in their wake. Gaza fell a week later, the River Jordan was crossed and Jerusalem captured. After spending the first months of 1918 resting and training, in March and April, the 4<sup>th</sup> took part in raids against the towns of Amman and Es Salt. However, a number of natural fortresses denied victory to the troopers: Red Hill, Black Hill, and the most vital—Table Top.



**Trooper Sloan "Scotty" Bolton DCM****Part 5**

Table Top was a myriad of rocky outcrops and sheer slopes. The light horsemen eyed the fortress with a steely resolve. The defenders were equally determined to fight them off. Bolton checked and rechecked his rifle and ammunition. He drew his bayonet from its scabbard and fitted it to the weapon, laying out his three Mills bombs on the edge of his pit. Mentally, he urged the enemy to counter attack, daring them to show their faces.

Ear splitting screams punctuated the deluge of rifle and machine-gun fire as the Turks attacked. The troopers returned fire but soon found their ammunition all but exhausted. The pins were pulled on the Mills bombs and these were hurled at the relentless attackers. When the bombs ran out, the troopers resorted to rocks, taking pot shots at the Turks with any projectile that came to hand.

Finally, the attack faltered, and the Turks began to withdraw. Along the light horse line, the order came to pursue the retreating attackers.

**Part 6 next month**

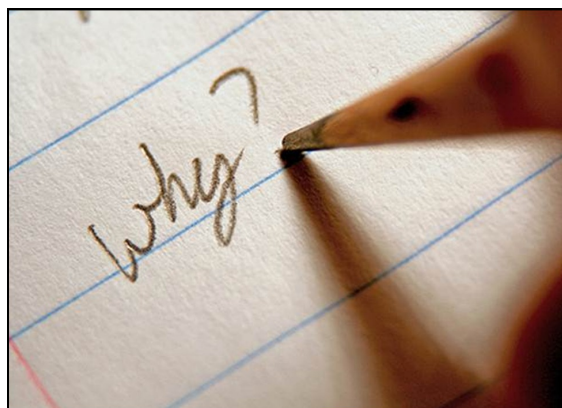
*By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, Just Soldiers, ADCC Publications, Brisbane, pg 15 to 26*

**ODD WW2 FACTS**

1. The first German serviceman killed in WW II was killed by the Japanese ( China , 1937), The first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians ( Finland 1940); The highest ranking American killed was Lt Gen Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps.
2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old: Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.
3. At the time of Pearl Harbor , the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced 'sink us'); The shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the swastika. Hitler's private train was named 'Amerika.' All three were soon changed for PR purposes.
4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions, an airman's chance of being killed was 71%.
5. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese Ace Hiroyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.
6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a big mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse yet tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo.  
  
This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.
7. When allied armies reached the Rhine , the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton (who had himself photographed in the act).



Private Gomad reckons.....



## WHY?

### The secret of enjoying a good wine:

1. Open the bottle to allow it to breathe.



2. If it does not look like it's breathing,  
give it mouth-to-mouth.

Coffee keeps me busy until  
it's acceptable to drink  
wine.



**Why** do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

**Why** do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

**Why** do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

**Why** do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in our driveway and put our useless junk in the garage?

EVER WONDER...

**Why** the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

**Why** can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?

**Why** don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

**Why** is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

**Why** is it that doctors and attorneys call what they do 'practice'?

**Why** is lemon juice made with artificial flavouring, and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?

And finally.....If peanut oil is made from peanuts, what is baby oil made from?????



### WANTED by the Army Museum of SA

**Wanted.** 2 x Admin/Support staff required to assist the RSAR Historical Collection every Wednesday 0830 to 1430hrs at the Keswick Barracks Army Museum. Must have an interest in Regimental history and the ability to assist with all museum work.

Contact Major Jeff Ayles (Ret) on 82784083.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Royal South Australia  
Regiment Association Inc

All correspondence to:-

**RSAR Association**

**The Secretary David Laing**

**Riverglen Marina RSD 3152A**

**White Sands**

**S.A. 5253**

[davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com)

**0407 791 822**



We're also on the Web!

*Find us at:*

[www.rsara.asn.au](http://www.rsara.asn.au)

## ANZAC DAY 2015 - ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Royal South Australia Regiment Association has received from the RSL the Orders Of The Day for ANZAC Day 2015. They are as follows:-

Dress:- Optional dress for the march is Blue blazer or jacket, grey trousers, Regimental tie, beret with RSAR badge, cap or hat.

Medals:- Medals as awarded to be worn on the left breast. Medals of Next Of Kin or of a relative not marching may be worn on right breast.

Command:- President Rodney Beames will lead the Association Group. Association Parade Sergeant Major TBA.

Forming Up Point (FUP):- **Group 11 Assembly Area is on Pulteney Street, between Grenfell & Pirie Streets - in the middle of the southern half of Hindmarsh Square .**

Timings:- March commences at 0930 hrs. Group 11 is expected to step off at 1000 hrs. All RSARA personnel should be in place prior to this time.

Car Parking:- Free car parking has been provided by **UPark** (Gawler Place from 0001 – 1800 hrs and Rundle Street from 0630 – 1800 hrs) for personnel wearing medals or RSL badge.

Blank File:- All personnel are to form up 6 abreast. A Blank File is to be created in the 2<sup>nd</sup> last rank if required.

Saluting Points:- All marchers are to pay compliments at the designated Saluting Points.

- SA National War Memorial (Cnr Nth Tce & Kintore Avenue)
- South African War Memorial (Cnr Nth Tce & King William St)
- Official Vice Regal Dias (On King William St near Torrens Parade Ground)

Removal of Civilian headdress at Saluting Points:- All marchers are to remove civilian headdress and place it over their medals on the left breast on the orders **"EYES RIGHT"** Headdress is to be returned to the head on the orders **"EYES FRONT."** Association personnel carrying the RSARA banner are to lower the banner at Saluting Points.

At the conclusion of the march, members who have reserved seating for lunch (reservations through Norm Rathmann) at the Queens Head Hotel are to make their way to that venue in Kermode St North Adelaide.

## ANZAC DAY 2015

## AN HONOUR FOR THE ASSOCIATION

As you can see from the above Orders Of The Day, the RSAR Association, and all former members of the Regiment are being afforded a great honour for this Centenary of Gallipoli year. We have been directed to march in Group 11, directly behind the soldiers of the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR, which in turn will be led by the 10/27 Bn Band.

The Battalion Group will march as a formed body for this one off occasion, and we will be part of that group.

And for those who wish to attend but cannot march, the ANZAC Day Committee will provide transport , which will be directly behind the marchers in Group 11. For those who wish to take up this offer, please contact Tony Chaplin (Senior ANZAC Day Marshall) direct, on his email of [tony.chaplin\\_amr@hotmail.com](mailto:tony.chaplin_amr@hotmail.com)

**Please make note of the NEW Forming Up Point, and ensure you are in place by 1000 hrs.**

# Royal South Australia Regiment Association



## WE WANT YOU

**DID YOU SERVE IN THE CMF OR ARMY RESERVE  
WITH THE 1st, 10th, 27th, 43rd or 10th/27th  
BATTALIONS OF THE  
ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT?**

The Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc is made up of men and women who have served with the RSAR and are looking to continue the camaraderie and friendship enjoyed during their service. You can check out what we do by visiting our Facebook page or our website. [www.rsara.asn.au](http://www.rsara.asn.au) or contact the





## MEMBERS LIST

Abareh, Wadi	SM
Acton, Chris	
Adams, Aaron	SM
Apostolides, Chris	
Attenborough, Geoff	
Ayles, Jeff	
Baldwin, Bob	
#Barnaart, Philip	
Bates, Allan	
Beames, Rod	CoM
Beckett, David	LM SM
Bennet, Graham	
Bilsborow, Jason	SM
Blackmore, William	
Blake, Sam	SM
Blondell, Mark	SM
Bloomfield, Max	
Bourne, Ian	SM
Boath, Ian	
Boothroyd, Lincoln	SM
Boscence, Bob	
Bras, Riley	SM
Broadbent, Robert	SM
Brookes, Phil	
Brown, Bruce	
Brown, Harry	
Burton, Ray	
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	
Domanski, Glenn	
Dubsky, Eddie	
Dunn, Peter	
Dunn, Bob	
Dunn, Jeff	
Durbin, Russell	
Durrant, Chris	
Edson, Roger	
Elliott, Graham	
Elliss, Scott	SM
Eva, Keith	
Ewens, Mimi	SM
Field, Don	
Flanagan, Ted	
Fridday, Ross	

Gaborit, Lyndon	LM
Genovese, John	
Gibson, Lindsay	
Giles, John	
Gill, Graham	CoM
Gilmore, Graham	
Gordon, Frank	
Hardy, Robert	SM
Harrington, Malcolm	
Harrison, John	
Hawking, Don	
Hawkins, Des	
Haynes, Scott	
# Hewitt, Emily	BAND
Hogan, Mark	LM
Hook, Alan	LM CoM
Hope, David	
Hudson, Mick	
Hudson, Rick	
Humphrys, Jesse	SM CoM
James, Grant	SM CoM
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
Lampard, Ross	
Lee, Bob	
Lee, Pat	
Lloyd, Elmer	
Lockett, John	
Longstaff, Paul	
Loveder, Peter	
Main, Brian	
Marcus, Ray	
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	CoM
Moore, Jeffrey	
Moore, Terry	LM
Moschis, James	SM
Munro, Ron	
Oliver, Peter	
Orrock, Alan	CoM
Ockenden, Marc	
Oswald, John	
Pach, Chol	SM

Paul, John	
Perkins, Bob	
Pollard, Barry	
#Portakiewicz, Anthony	BAND
# Portakiewicz, David	BAND
Phillips, Don	
Phillips, Colin	
Phillips, Trevor	
Payne, Bob	
Parslow, Howard	
Preece, Brian	
Rado, Stephen	
Ranger, Denis	
Rathmann, John	
Rathmann, Norm	CoM
Ramm, Hank	
Robertson, Jim	
Rorie, Graham	SM
Rossetti, Lee	
Sage, Andrew	
Salamon, Peter	
Sanders, Ashley	SM
Sanderson, Max	
Sands, Mike	
Sexton, Mark	SM
# Slattery, Kimberly	BAND
# Sniedze, Julie	BAND
Sprigg, Rob	
Staker, Cameron	SM
Standing, Michael	CoM
Stone, Eddie	
Strain, Doug	
Steer, Phil	
Stewart, Rob	LM
Stuart, Matthew	SM
Tiller, Garth	
Thomson, Jim	
Tolotta, Tarrant	SM
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
<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>	
Ayles, Denise	
Beames, Cheryl	
Carnachan, Dom	
Dart, Caroline	

Demosani, Gail
Elliott, Julie
Eva, Gail
Field, Shirley
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
Phillips, Heather
Sanderson, Lorraine
Tregenza, Lyn

### HONORARY MEMBERS

G. Goodwin CO 10/27 RSAR  
T. Moore ADJT 10/27 RSAR  
M. Reyne RSM 10/27 RSAR

LM denotes LIFE MEMBER  
SM denotes SERVING ADF MEMBER

BAND denotes serving 10/27 Band member

# Denotes NEW MEMBER

**203** members as at 2/3/15

### WE NEED YOU.

- Have you served in the CMF, Army Reserve or Regular Army with the Royal South Australia Regiment, or one of it's Battalions since the 1950's?
- If so you're eligible to join the RSAR Association and experience the camaraderie you enjoyed as a soldier.
- See Page 7 for details