



## Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

### 9 BRIGADE OP "BUSHFIRE ASSIST"

Over 300 people attended the OP Bushfire Assist family information and BBQ night. Members of RSARA, SAMRA and the RAEA assisted Defence and other agencies including Open Arms, DCO and DHA to provide advice to the families about what their loved ones have been doing. Well done everyone, great food and company, and if you are deployed watch out in the mail...some of you may be receiving a care package! Special thanks to Ken Daly RAE (SA) Association, Reg Williams SAMRA and Rod Beames RSAR Association for mustering your members to prepare and serve the food for the masses. You support the families who support the troops who support the bushfire affected communities. Well done all.



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## The Turkish Soldier Memorial

*Much is said and written about the actions of Allied soldiers at Gallipoli, but very little is recorded in OUR archives about our enemy at Gallipoli, the Turks. Here's a short story from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Editor*

Towering over the Anzac battlefield, just up the road from Quinn's Post, is the statue of an ordinary Turkish soldier, a 'Mehmet'. Hans Kannengiesser, a German military adviser to the Ottoman Army, described the Mehments as brave and trustworthy. Initially, the Allies underestimated the fighting capacity of the Turkish army and many thought it would melt away at the first show of force and the cold steel of a bayonet. As the fighting on 25 April 1915 on the slopes beyond the statue leading up towards the heights of Chunuk Bair (Conkbayiri) revealed, well-led Turkish soldiers would fight for their homeland and stand up to the invaders. And perhaps it was the Anzac's misfortune that on 25 April they encountered one of the most able of all the Turkish commanders, Colonel Mustafa Kemal.



Kemal arrived with elements of his 19th Division at Chunuk Bair as small parties of Anzacs were making their way up the slopes. Meeting Turkish soldiers fleeing, Kemal asked them why they were running

away and they pointed to the Australians saying they had no ammunition. 'If you haven't got any ammunition', Kemal retorted, 'you have your bayonets'. He made the Turks fix bayonets and lie down in a line in the scrub. The Anzacs, seeing this tactic, did likewise, their impetus up the slope temporarily halted. Kemal's prompt appearance on the battlefield effectively prevented the Anzacs achieving their aim in this sector – the capture of Chunuk Bair. Turkish counter-attacks later in the day, even if they could not drive them into the sea, herded the invading forces into that small segment of the peninsula known as Anzac, which they defended for the rest of the campaign.

Eventually, the Anzacs developed a high regard for the ordinary Turkish soldier and his fighting qualities. They recognised in the Turk a fellow sufferer in war and acknowledged his humanity. In his poem Anzac Lieutenant Oliver Hogue wrote:

*"I reckon the Turk respects us, as we respect the Turk; Abdul's a good clean fighter – we've fought him, and we know."*



**Turkish Soldiers Memorial—ANZAC Cove**



## The RSAR Fighting Fires - 1974

The recent fires on Kangaroo Island and in the Adelaide Hills were deadly and devastating, with human lives and property being lost. Soldiers from many units (including the 10/27 Battalion Battle Group) were deployed to support Emergency Services and to assist in fighting the fires and rebuilding what was destroyed. Australia saw a new side of our soldiers, and their assistance will be talked about for many years. We thank all those who were deployed, and those who stayed back in support roles. Your work was (and still is) amazing.

Our Regiment has a long history of fighting fires, and my first recollection was back in 1974 at Kersbrook, when elements of A Company, 10 RSAR were training in the Kersbrook State Forest on a weekend exercise. The exercise came to an abrupt end when a call for help was received by our OC from the Woods & Forests Rangers. A fire had broken out in dense scrubland about 2 kms from where we were training, and our help was required. Getting to the area was no problem for the 40 or so soldiers, and once onsite we were issued with knapsack fire sprayers, containing about 20 litres of water. After about 2 hours we succeeded in putting out most of the spot fires, and our places were soon taken over by volunteers from the then Emergency Fire Services. We returned to our training soon after, with the knowledge that we had done our bit to keep our training area safe. If anyone has any more pictures of their unit fighting fires I'd be interested to see and publish them.



LEFT & BELOW: Soldiers from A Coy 10 RSAR fighting fires in Kersbrook State Forest.

BELOW RIGHT : LCPL David Laing using a knapsack sprayer to good advantage.



## Facts about the US Civil War

### 7. The armies weren't all-male

Hundreds of women on both sides pulled a Mulan, assuming male identities and appearances so that they might fight for their respective nations. Some of them did it for adventure, but many did it for monetary reasons: the pay for a male soldier was about \$13 month, which was close to double what a woman could make in any profession at the time.

Also, being a man gave someone a lot more freedoms than just being able to wear pants. Remember, this was still more than half a century away from women's suffrage and being a man meant that you could manage your monthly \$13 wages independently. So it should come as no surprise that many of these women kept up their aliases long after the war had ended, some even to the grave.

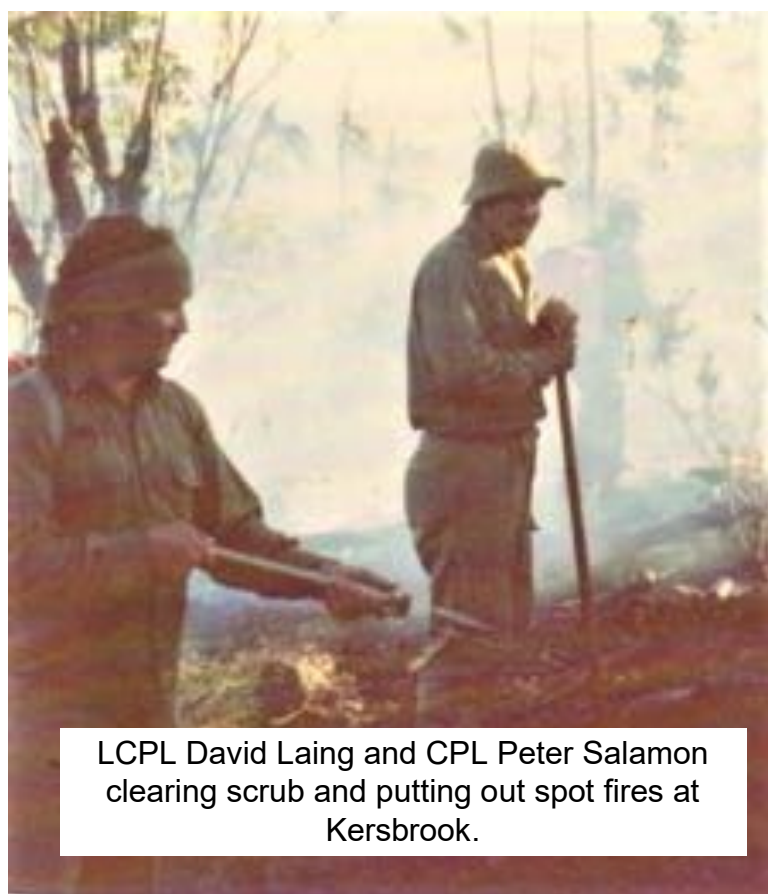
Their presence in soldiers' ranks wasn't the best-kept secret. Some servicewomen kept up correspondence with the home front after they changed their identities, and for decades after the war newspapers ran article after article chronicling the stories of woman soldiers, and speculating on why they might break from the accepted gender norms. Perhaps not



surprisingly, in 1909 the U.S. Army denied that "any woman was ever enlisted in the military service of the United States as a member of any organization of the Regular or Volunteer Army at any time during the period of the civil war."



## The RSAR Fighting Fires - 1974



LCPL David Laing and CPL Peter Salamon clearing scrub and putting out spot fires at Kersbrook.



TOP RIGHT: PTE Peter Harvey poses for a photo as the scrub fire is brought under control. (Peter sadly passed away about 12 years ago.)

### A COY 10 RSAR

RIGHT: WO2 Ian Carnachan, CSM of A Coy 10 RSAR leads by example fighting the Kersbrook fire in 1974



## WHAT GOES AROUND.....

Before Christmas members of the RSAR Association committee gathered at Keswick Barracks to wrap and address Gift Packages for Battalion members deployed during the Christmas period. One of the recipients has sent us a Thank You Very Much Card, and an accompanying letter. (His gift was packed by Christian Bennett, Assistant RSARA Treasurer (Red arrow)) What goes around, comes around.



The RSARA Committee and Padre Derek Croser packed 30 Care Packages for our soldiers deployed during the Christmas period.

**SEE UPDATE PAGE 9**



## PRIVATE TED'S HUMOUR

Meet SX 0001, Private Sidney Hubert Ichabod Ted. 10th Battalion AIF. Ted joined the AIF at the age of 6 but lied about his age, as Teddy's were supposed to be 8. He was one of the first ashore at Gallipoli and later saw service and action in France and Belgium, etc.

Private Ted represents the Spirit of ANZAC, and he's joined our editorial staff to make you laugh. Welcome Ted!

Our new Joke Teller welcomes any contributions to this newsletter. Simply send them through to the Secretary for inclusion.

Thanks.



This  
'killing them with  
kindness'  
is taking way  
longer then I  
expected

My wife asked me to  
take her to one of  
those restaurants  
where they make the  
food right in front of  
you. So I took her to  
Subway and that's  
how the fight started.

I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE  
ACT ALL INTELLECTUAL  
AND TALK ABOUT  
MOZART WHILE THEY'VE  
NEVER EVEN SEEN ONE  
OF HIS PAINTINGS...

## Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc



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Hard copies of this newsletter are kindly printed by the office of the Member for Barker, the Honourable Tony Pasin MP, in Murray Bridge.

Some members don't have internet access or email, therefore the only way we can keep them informed is by snail mail hard copies. This is made much easier thanks to Tony and his hard working staff.

*Thank you Tony Pasin MP and Staff.*



The majority of stories and photos in this publication are also posted on our Facebook page as they come to hand. Check them out and comment as you see fit.

*David Laing* - Editor

# Editorial

**So**, never start a sentence with "so!"

"Yeah, nah, yeah, yeah, nah!" said the brainless footballer when asked if multiple knocks to the head had affected his brain function capacity!

Have we lost the ability to talk proper? I recall being coached, along with the rest of my Grade 4 class at Brighton Primary School to repeat again and again "The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain!" Being in a class of predominantly Aussie-born kids, the verse sounded something like "Tha Rhine in Spine faws Manly on the Pline!" (Ala Madga Zubanski) There was no way our teacher Mr Hocking (a World War 2 veteran) was going to make the verse sound correct, because he also had that dry Aussie drawl!

And yet today we see hordes of folk, including school kids waiting at bus stops, all enthralled in their mobile phones and/or tablets. The bus arrives, they get on without even greeting the bus driver, and take their seats without ever raising their gaze any higher than their screen. Bus moves off and the only sound is from two elderly folk talking to each other about what happened years ago. No, one of them isn't me! I don't use public transport!

But I suppose this is the future as we know it to be. My grand daughter is nearly four years old and she's being taught how to use an I Pad at her preschool kindy. At four years of age there was no such thing as "kindy" for me, so my sister and I contented ourselves playing on the bombsites of London. How things have changed? Even when we came to Australia at the age of 10, we were allowed out on our own all day, as long as we were home by dinner time. We could play on the beaches of Marino and Seacliff without a care in the world. It really was "the age of innocence!"

That age has gone, like Elvis and Frank Sinatra, except Frank doesn't work at Woolworths, like Elvis does!

We are now forced to listen to music groups with weird names like "Mothers Devils" and "Satan's Bootlicking Snot Gobblers," just to name three!

So, where does that leave us? Never start a sentence with "so!"

So sue me!

Cheers

*David Laing* - Editor

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the RSAR Association, nor anyone else on this planet, for that matter, except the Editor, who may or may not be from another planet.



## Our plans don't always go..... To plan!

Our Association purchased, wrapped, addressed and posted Christmas parcels to our 20 soldiers serving away from home over Christmas, and as you can see on Page 6, they were received with much pleasure, even prompting letters and cards of "thanks." Well, not all the parcels were delivered!!! President Rod Beames took a call from the Orderly Room Clerk at 10/27 RSAR advising him that a "delivery" had been returned to Keswick. This was in mid January. Rod was aghast to find that nearly half the parcels that were sent had been returned as "being too heavy!" TOO HEAVY? They were over the 1kg limit, but you would have thought the military mail system would have sent them anyway, and absorbed the cost, or even sent us a bill, but NO, they chose to let them sit in a mail bag somewhere in Sydney, and then after they had returned from their own leave, return them to us, as being "too heavy!" Whatever happened to supporting our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan? Rod Beames has sent the following letter of complaint! (I'd be interested to hear your thoughts on this subject!)

### **Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel,**

The Honourable Darren Chester MP  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. ACT 2600.

6 February 2020

### **Letter of Complaint.**

Dear Sir,

I wish to lodge a letter of complaint against the ADF, the actual department is unclear to me but involves the AFPO (Australian Forces Post Office) mail system.

I am president of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association, representing past and serving members of the Regiment in the ADF. I have become particularly frustrated with a system that cannot, or will not deliver some simple parcels to Australian soldiers serving over-seas.

The constitution of our association encourages support for serving personnel of the Regiment and to this end, last December we supplied 20 "Christmas Care Packs" for those soldiers on deployment over Christmas/New Year. We are restricted for various reasons, on what we can send, but in past years we have sent locally grown dried fruit and nuts with sweets to the troops, so in 2019 we repeated this process.

To my dismay, 7 of the 20 packages destined mainly to Afghanistan and Iraq, were returned last week with 2 words written on them "TOO HEAVY". I weighed them and they are just under 2 kgs. Each parcel is identical. The AFPO Mail note provided states: *"1 kg max weight, reason is that over 1kg will be cubed weight and cost too much to send. Therefore we are not authorised to send it."*

What sheer nonsense!

At a time when the ADF is well aware of the mental stress of deployment, and we are personally trying to offset some of this, I am bitterly disappointed that these small but significant gifts were not delivered as addressed. All the correct documentation was completed, and of the 13 parcels that were sent on, we have received written "thank you cards" from the recipients.

Had we known of this ridiculous ruling, we would have paid out of our own pockets to have the parcels delivered in time for Christmas, and bring some small cheer to our soldiers serving overseas.

Can you please investigate, have the Routine Orders changed, have the operators re-educated and/or the process cleared so that if we have soldiers serving this Christmas (2020), they may receive a small token of appreciation from Home Base.

At a time when support from home is forefront in the minds of our deployed personnel, one would think the mailing process would be more user friendly for those who offer that support.

Yours sincerely,

**Rodney Beames**

President RSAR Association Inc

## LETTERS TO THE ASSOCIATION

### UNCLASSIFIED

Rod,  
Please pass on our thanks for the efforts of all RSAR Association members on Friday and over the last few months, in particular the sending of care packs to the Middle East.  
Regards,

### SG CAWSEY

WO2  
OPSWO  
10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment  
Keswick Barracks, Anzac Hwy, Keswick SA 5035

### UNCLASSIFIED

Good Morning Ken, Reg and Rod

On behalf of JTF 1111 I would like to Thank you for your time and efforts. It is very much appreciated. Your associations worked well together which allowed for a smooth well organised function.

I certainly will be contacting you all for future events and would like to discuss your ideas.

I am not sure how the function was over catered because we had 220 on the sign in sheets + 80 soldiers from RAAF Base and 60 staff and helpers = 360 . We catered for 350 perhaps people were not hungry - each person was catered to receive a chop, sausage and steak -too much I suppose.

Enjoy your weekend and hope to contact you all soon

Regards

*Sandra Cornish*

MAJOR

HQ 9 BDE

Hi Dave,

In my role as the OC A Coy, 10/27 RSAR I wanted to say thanks for all the hard work and support of your members over many years. It is much appreciated, keep up the great work!

I also note the recent inclusion on the RSARA website of a slideshow from Operation Bushfire Assist, which is great to see as a picture tells a thousand words. In the near future my 2IC CAPT Michael Peachey will send you some more photos from all the great work our members have done and continue to do in the Adelaide Hills as part of Op BA and the recovery of the Cudlee Creek fire.

Dave, I'm keen to continue to strengthen the relationship between the association and the current serving members of A Coy and the Bn. In that line, my team and I would love to catch up with you and discuss some ways that we can continue to strengthen the bond.

In the meantime, I have instructed Michael to distribute the monthly newsletters to all serving members of A Coy and to commence raising awareness of the RSARA.

Hope to catch up again soon mate,

Regards,

*Andrew Kemp*

MAJ  
OC A Coy  
10<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment  
Keswick Barracks, Anzac Highway, Keswick, SA, 5035



**RSAR Association - Financial Members as at February 17, 2020****Honorary Members**

Wilson	Neil
Lipman	Ben
Morgenthaler	Peter

**Life Members**

Acton	Chris
Ayles	Jeff
Beckett	David
Blackmore	Bill
Boscence	Bob
Bourne	Colin
Brookes	Philip
Burnard	Trent
Burns	Wayne
Carnachan	Ian
Dart	John
Davey	Trevor
Elliott	Graham
Gaborit	Lyndon
Hawking	Don
Haynes	Malcolm
Hogan	Mark
Hook	Alan
Hope	David
Horseman	Ian
Hudson	Rick
Jackson	Aaron
James	Grant
Johnson	Barry
Klopf	Alex
Laing	David
Lakin	Bruce
Marlin	Robin
Moore	Terry
Paul	John
Pollard	Barry
Sanderson	Max
Stewart	Robin
Stewien	Peter
Vella	Joe
Waters	Ian
Westover	Rhys
Wilson	Graham
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg

**Associate Life Members**

Field	Shirley
Phillips	Heather
Sanderson	Lorraine

**Members**

Abel	Colin
Abraham	Michael
Attenborough	Geoff
Bampton	Michael
Beames	Rodney
Bennett	Christian
Blondell	Mark
Bras	Riley
Brown	Bruce
Burnard	Saxon
Burton	Ray
Buttars	Erik
Carlisle	Lesley-Ann
Collins	Peter
Cooke	Nat
Cotton	Bob
Cram	Kevin
Dew	Trevor
Domanski	Glenn
Dunn	Peter
Eva	Keith
Ewens	Mimi
Faunt	Joshua
Faquiri	Reshad
Foy	Erin
Gill	Graham
Goodwin	Graham
Gordon	Frank
Harris	Lachlan
Harrison	John
Harrison	Nigel
Hawkins	Des
Heath	Jonathan
Hill	Max
Loveder	Peter
Matchett	Bill
McCulloch	Don
Mitchell	Barry
Morony	Frank
Mulroney	Dennis
Oakley	Andrew
O'Daly	Ryan
Orrock	Alan
Parslow	Howard
Parsonage	James
Pascoe	Michael
Payne	Bob
Pexton	Timothy
Phillips	Colin Rex

**Members (ctd.)**

Portakiewicz	Anthony
Portakiewicz	David
Preece	Brian
Rado	Stephen
Ramm	Hank
Ranger	Denis
Rathmann	John
Rathmann	Norm
Rijken	Paul
Robertson	James
Rossetti	Lee
Smith	Ryan
Sage	Andrew
Sanders	Ashley
Scott	Rhys
Slocombe	Leigh
Standing	Michael
Tasker	David
Thomas	David
Thomson	Jim
Tiller	Garth
Trogenza	Norm
Trezise	George
Tucker	Belinda
Wheeler	Chris

**Associate Members**

Abel	Karen
Beames	Cheryl
Carnachan	Dom
Elliott	Julie
Hook	Philippa
Johnson	Margaret
Laing	June
Toy	Jill
Trogenza	Lyn
Winger	Kathleen

Honorary Members	3
Life Members	34
Serving Life Members	5
Associate Life Members	3
Members	52
Serving Members	22
Associate Members	10
<b>Total financial members</b>	<b>129</b>

**Prepaid Members**

2020/21	#
2021/22	Σ

## A Journey to War

by RSARA member Phil Brookes

### Clement Mahony and the 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion

"*Steady men*", platoon Sergeant, John Smith, murmured to his Diggers as they quietly waited for the shrill blast of the whistle, signalling to attack the Germans. Smith, like most of his platoon, was an unlikely soldier, born in Kadina, in the mid north of South Australia, he was a customs clerk at Port Adelaide. Like most of the men of the South Australian 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion, he had survived the hell of the major battles in France and Belgium; Pozieres was the battalion's baptism. Sergeant Smith was a thoughtful, mentally tough man, promoted in the field; he had that natural leadership style that underscored the Australian citizen soldier.

The wild and bitterly cold wind, mixed with sleet and snow, burrowed its melancholy way along the waterlogged trenches. The attack had been postponed, but 11 April 1917 was now to be the day. Sergeant Smith worked his way along the trench with just a pinprick of light to guide him. No smoking from the men, just stamping of feet like excited horses at the starting gate. Sergeant Smith stopped and spoke a few quiet words of encouragement to four men making final ministrations to their weapons. He checked to ensure all were fully kitted with Mills bombs, sandbags full of ammunition field dressings and the other myriad accoutrements of the infantryman. The smell of gun oil and cordite mixed with the damp trench and the sweat of the men, impatient to move. The sergeant greeted Clem Mahony, an ex-Trooper from A Squadron, 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment; a Gallipoli man and through the misfortunes of war, was now a Private rifleman in the 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Clem and John were friends, as was the way in the volunteer AIF.

*Great morning for a stroll Clem*" The sergeant murmured.

Clem smiled, hollow eyes showed the sadness of war, there was little humour. "*A three day leave pass in Blighty to see my fiancée would be better*".

*"Good luck chum.* John replied, both soldiers shook hands and the platoon sergeant slung his rifle, disappearing through the foggy gloom to the command post for a final briefing.

A shouted "*fix bayonets!*" and the sharp clicks of the 17-inch (430mm) sword bayonet onto .303 rifles rippled along the trenches like a ragged *Fue de Joire*, but there was to be no joy this day.

*"Mount up"*. Gear was checked; rifle bolts slammed with a metallic thud to chamber that first round. The 48<sup>th</sup> clambered to the parapets. "*Wait for the flare and the whistles and then go; good luck and don't give those bloody Bosche any quarter.*

Zero hour; 0445; a flare arched into the silent blackness and burst, sprinkling daylight into the trenches. None of the men looked skyward to ruin their night vision. Whistles shrilled and a mighty roar broke the silence as the 48<sup>th</sup> howled like maddened Dervishes and rushed across the flatness toward the German front, the Hindenburg Line, a long 1400 yards across no man's land.

Clem Mahony, carrying 30 kilograms, struggled trying keep his place in the extended skirmish line with his platoon; Sergeant John Smith was a few paces away.

There were no Germans rushing to meet the Australians, they waited then the withering enfilade fire from the powerful German MG08 machine guns; their deadly bullets zinged and hissed like angry wasps; the click and whoosh of falling mortars and the banshee wail of artillery provided a deafening orchestral onslaught to the advancing Australians; now exposed as the chill dawn broke across the blood soaked battlefield. There was none of the promised English tank or artillery support. Dante's Inferno could be no worse. One soldier later wrote:

*"The air was dense with crackling bullets, and thick with the blood-chilling stink of explosives. The plain was carpeted with bodies, mostly lying still, but some crawling longingly for cover. A man cannoned into me and fell, leaving a bloody patch on my shoulder. But there was no sound of human voice in all the storm. Carefully I picked my way through the wire and the limp forms that dangled over it. Sometimes I was hooked up"*.

Three hundred yards from the Hindenburg Line, all hell broke loose as the German machine gunners scythed through the advancing Australians. Sergeant Smith lost sight of Clem. He was not seen again and joined the lost legion of 18,000 Diggers in France who have no known grave.

The report by Sergeant Smith states: "*Regarding 935A Pte C. Mahony. I can state he was in my platoon and well known to me. I was with him when he fell at Bullecourt, about 300 yards from the German Hindenburg lines. We were running forward to take the position, so that I can only presume that he was killed and that presumption has grown stronger since no tidings have come-back from Germany. He would have been looked after by his comrades, but after a few hours the enemy routed us and we were*



*forced to retire to our original position 1400 yards back. This may explain to you the number of missing on that date. It was my intention to write to his people, but the rush of one event on top of another caused me to place the case as temporarily”.*

Fighting their way into the German positions the *vulgar brawl* became very personal and angry, with bayonet, clubs, knuckle dusters, rifle butts and fists. However, the Australians were outnumbered and surrounded; withdrawal was the only option.

Charles Bean wrote:

*“The 48th came out – under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, but with proud deliberation and studied nonchalance, at walking pace, picking their way through the broken wire... carefully helping the walking wounded and with their officers bringing up the rear. Leisurely as a crowd leaving its daily work, the 48th drew clear. Many were killed in withdrawing; many were wounded and lay about the wire until captured or put to death by a merciful enemy”.*

The battle-torn battalion was ordered to the rear. *‘The depleted ranks were a pitiful sight as the unit trailed through the snow to battalion headquarters ... led by their colonel’.* The 48th Battalion (about 1,000 men) had been reduced to just a company (about 100 men). Corporal Mitchell recalled that *‘the other battalions of the brigade cheered as we marched’.*

Six and a half battalions and accompanying units of the Australian 4th Division lost over 3000 officers and men, of whom 28 officers and 1142 men were captured – the largest number of Australians taken by the enemy in a single battle. Two thirds of those who entered the fight were lost. A soldier wrote of one his comrades who was exposed to the enemy to save his mates: *“Perhaps in civilian days he would not have known greatness, but now we get together on Anzac Day and feel like pooling the decorations issued to us and casting them aside, for this truly great man received but a wooden cross for the part he played in laying down his life for his county and saving his friends”.*

Sergeant John Smith; regimental number 1614, was 29 when he enlisted in Adelaide on 9 December 1915. His military record indicates a first-class soldier and NCO; a natural leader respected by his men. He continued the bloody business of war and was KIA (Killed in Action) in France on 18 September 1918.

## Clem’s story

Trooper; later Private Clement Aloysius Joseph Mahony; regimental number 935 was 26 when enlisted in the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment on 26 November 1914. Like Sergeant Smith, he was single and tall for that period, standing at 5 foot 9 inches (175 cm). He was my great uncle.

Clem, as he was known, was a fitter from Port Broughton, an agricultural and fishing town about 170 kilometres north of Adelaide. It was a port where the sleek clipper ships rounded the Horn, over a century ago, heading into the Great Australian Bight to load the golden South Australian wheat and barley. Clem’s father, James and his wife, Susan, migrated from England to Western Australia, but decided South Australia would be a better option, finally settling in Gawler, 40 kilometres north of Adelaide. It was a productive marriage as the couple took the biblical commandment of *“go ye forth and multiply”* and their Irish Catholicism seriously indeed; having 15 children. James was a piano maker/carpenter and fitted out much of the internal woodwork when Adelaide’s St Francis Xavier’s Cathedral was refurbished in 1887. He was an accomplished musician and Gawler’s choirmaster.

On 4 August 1914 Australia followed Britain’s declaration of war on Germany.



Clement Aloysius Joseph Mahony, youngest child of James and Susan Mahony. Born 19th, March 1888. Killed in action Bullecourt, France, 1917.

Continued in next months issue.

## DID YOU KNOW.....? Believe it or NOT!

The song, Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the New Year.

Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent.

Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450F.

The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.

The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man.

Airports at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density.

The University of Alaska spans four time zones.

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.

In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.

Warner Communications paid \$28 million for the copyright to the song Happy Birthday.

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

A comet's tail always points away from the sun.

The Swine Flu vaccine in 1976 caused more death and illness than the disease it was intended to prevent.

Caffeine increases the power of aspirin and other painkillers, that is why it is found in some medicines.

The military salute is a motion that evolved from medieval times, when knights in armour raised their visors to reveal their identity.

If you get into the bottom of a well or a tall chimney and look up, you can see stars, even in the middle of the day.

When a person dies, hearing is the last sense to go. The first sense lost is sight.

In ancient times strangers shook hands to show that they were unarmed.

Strawberries are the only fruits whose seeds grow on the outside.

Avocados have the highest calories of any fruit at 167 calories per hundred grams.

The moon moves about two inches away from the Earth each year.

The Earth gets 100 tons heavier every day due to falling space dust.

Due to earth's gravity it is impossible for mountains to be higher than 15,000 meters.

It's impossible to "cross your eyes" with one eye closed!

Open your eyes, stupid!

Soldiers do not march in step when going across bridges because they could set up a vibration which could be sufficient to knock the bridge down.

Everything weighs one percent less at the equator.

For every extra kilogram carried on a space flight, 530 kg of excess fuel are needed at lift-off.



## Veteran Suicides & What the Government is doing

UNOFFICIAL



**The Hon. Scott Morrison MP**

Prime Minister

**Senator The Hon. Linda Reynolds CSC**

Minister for Defence

**The Hon. Darren Chester MP**

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel

Wednesday 5 February 2020

### **POWERFUL NEW BODY TO TACKLE ADF AND VETERAN SUICIDES**

A powerful, new independent body will be created to investigate all suspected veteran and Australian Defence Force (ADF) suicides and causes to help save lives.

The Morrison Government will establish a permanent National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention.

The National Commissioner will have the enduring power, scope and resources to investigate suicides and related issues as they arise, rather than being restricted by a one-off review looking at past practices.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the independent Commissioner would also have the power to compel witnesses to give evidence.

“This is about being forever vigilant for the care and well-being of our veterans,” the Prime Minister said. “Those veterans and all serving men and women protect our community and our freedoms. It is our duty to do the same for them. “I have thought long and hard about the best response to this issue. I have spoken to veterans right across Australia and I have met with their families and also local, state and national organisations.

“I believe what we have developed addresses the needs of those veterans, their families and our serving men and women. “We will be permanently vigilant about their welfare.”

The National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention will be empowered to perform two roles:

- The Commissioner will be an independent and permanent public accountability body, with the same powers of a Royal Commission to compel the production of evidence and summon witnesses, and make findings and recommendations to Government.
- The Commissioner will also provide an ongoing investigative function of individual cases of suicide, working with each state and territory coronial office, making recommendations to Government.

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The Government will invest an initial \$40 million to support the Commissioner's work and this will be expanded to ensure they have whatever resources they need.

The Government will also establish an immediate, independent review of historical veteran suicide cases, conducted by the Commissioner, focusing on the impact of military service and veterans' post service experience.

An interim report will be delivered within 12 months. Families will be engaged in this process if they wish, with an opportunity to participate and tell their stories openly and safely. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, along with coronial and legal experts, will provide technical expertise in support of this work. Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said the Commissioner would also deliver an Annual Veteran and Defence Suicide Death Report to the Parliament. "This will be a transparent report directly to the Parliament on an annual basis on suicides within the defence and veteran community, including an update on the implementation and evaluation of measures to reduce suicide risk factors," Mr Chester said.

"The Government is committed to ensuring ADF members, veterans and their families have access to the right support, at the right time, especially those who are vulnerable or at risk." Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC said the Chief of the Defence Force and each Service Chief was committed to being open and transparent, to support improved health outcomes for ADF personnel and veterans.

"The mental health and wellbeing of our vets and Defence Force members is an issue of national and enduring importance.

"These comprehensive measures have been developed with a very clear focus on finding the most effective and practical ways of better identifying, preventing, understanding and acting on suicide and suicide risks among our vets and service men and women."

A Veteran Family Advocate will also be appointed to directly engage with the families of veterans, to improve the design of all veteran programs and services, including mental health supports and services. "The new Veteran Family Advocate will focus on mental health and suicide prevention, and contribute to our understanding of risk factors relating to the wellbeing of veterans and their families, particularly during transition from the ADF," Mr Chester said.

"The Advocate will represent the views of veterans and their families by engaging and advocating to help shape policy and the administration of veteran benefits and support.

"We want to assure defence and veterans' families that help is available now and it can make a difference. Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling provides support and counselling to current ADF members, veterans and their families and can be contacted 24/7 on 1800 011 046."

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