

MARCH 2019

"Sitrep, Over!"

To Perpetuate the Regiment



Inside this issue:

Centurion Main Battle Tank	2-3
Editorial. 3 Little Sisters & "OUR" Band	5
Memories of the Alberton Depot	6,7,8
Financial Members List	9
CPL Dave's Page	10



Special Points of Interest

- Formal Dinner in October. Book Now.
- See Page 6 for Merchandise available.
- If you have any stories and/or pictures of a military nature, please send them to the Editor for publication. All input is appreciated.
- Check out the Murray Bridge RSL Museum on Facebook.

RSARA Formal Dinner

Over the past two years the Association has conducted very successful Formal Dinners at the Colonel Light Gardens RSL, and it the intention to carry on that event this year, as long as enough interest is shown.

To make the night a success we require at least 40 expressions of interest, and once received the planning will go ahead. The Band of the 10th/27th Battalion will "play for their supper!"



The venue is again at the Colonel Light Gardens RSL, and the date set is **Saturday 12th October @ 1900 for 1930 hrs.**

Cost is again set at \$45 per head, and that will cover your 2 course meal and all wine, beers



and soft drinks. Dress is FORMAL: That is:

Dinner Suit, Lounge Suit, Mess Dress or Polys for men and After 5 for ladies.

Attendance is not just for those of officer rank, but is open to ALL RANKS and their partners. This will be a great night of camaraderie and friendship, to be enjoyed by all.

If you would like to attend please register your interest with the Secretary David Laing on his email of davidlaing49@bigpond.com **NLT Friday 3rd May 2019**

ANZAC DAY FOR THE RSARA

Pre-empting what the RSL HQ will advise about 5 minutes before Step Off, the RSAR Association will form up on Grenfell St at around 0930 hrs, and step off about 1045 hrs on Thursday 25th April 2019.

After the march all members are invited to meet and participate in a few beers and a greasy snag at our "spiritual home" Torrens Training Depot. Be responsible and drink in moderation.

Fees and Merchandise can be paid by EFT through the following Bendigo Bank account:

RSAR Association

BSB 633 000

Acc. 1616 585 88

Cheques etc can be mailed to David Hope at:

**The Treasurer RSAR Association
20 Katoomba Rd**

Beaumont SA 5066

Centurion Main Battle Tank

The **Centurion** was the primary British main battle tank of the post-Second World War period. Introduced in 1945, it is widely considered to be one of the most successful post-war tank designs, remaining in production into the 1960s, and seeing combat in the front lines into the 1980s. The chassis was also adapted for several other roles, and these have remained in service to this day.

Development of the Centurion began in 1943 with manufacture beginning in January 1945. Six prototypes arrived in Belgium less than a month after the war in Europe ended in May 1945. It first entered combat with the British Army in the Korean War in 1950, in support of the UN forces. The Centurion later served in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, where it fought against US-supplied M47 and M48 Patton tanks and it served with the Royal Australian Armoured Corps in Vietnam.

Israel used Centurions in the 1967 Six-Day War, 1973 Yom Kippur War, and during the 1978 and 1982 invasions of Lebanon. Centurions modified as armoured personnel carriers were used in Gaza, the West Bank and on the Lebanese border. The Royal Jordanian Land Force used Centurions, first in 1970 to fend off a Syrian incursion within its borders during the Black September events and later in the Golan Heights in 1973. South Africa deployed its Centurions in Angola during the South African Border War.

It became one of the most widely used tank designs, equipping armies around the world, with some still in service until the 1990s. As recently as the 2006 Israel–Lebanon conflict the Israel Defense Forces employed heavily modified Centurions as armoured personnel carriers and combat engineering vehicles. The South African National Defence Force still employs over 200 Centurions, which were modernised in the 1980s and 2000s as the *Olifant (elephant)*. Between 1946 and 1962, 4,423 Centurions were produced, consisting of 13 basic marks and numerous variants. In British Army use it was replaced by the Chieftain.

VIETNAM ERA

In 1967, the Royal Australian Armoured Corps' (RAAC), 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) Squadron transferred to "A" Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment Vietnam. Although they successfully conducted combat operations in their areas of operations, reports from the field stated that their lightly-armoured M113A1 armoured personnel carriers were unable to force their way through dense jungle limiting their offensive actions against enemy forces. The Australian government, under criticism from Parliament, decided to send a squadron of Australian Centurion tanks to South Vietnam. The 20-pdr armed Australian Centurions of 'C' Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment landed in the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) on 24 February 1968, being headquartered at Nui Dat in III Corps (MR3).

Colonel Donald Dunstan, later to be governor of South Australia, was the deputy task force commander of the Australian forces in South Vietnam. Dunstan had quite possibly been the last Australian to use tanks and infantry in a combined operation during the Second World War, (as part of the Bougainville campaign), and the first since the war to command Australia's tanks and infantry in combat. When he temporarily took over command during Brigadier Ronald Hughes's absence, he directed that the Centurions be brought up from Nui Dat to reinforce the firebases at *Coral* and *Balmoral*, believing that they were a strong element that were not being used. Besides adding a great deal of firepower, Dunstan stated, he "couldn't see any reason why they [the Centurions] shouldn't be there". His foresight enabled

the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF) to inflict approximately 267 enemy casualties during the six-week-long Battle of Coral–Balmoral, as well as



Centurion continued.....



A pristine example of a Centurion Mk 5 on display in NSW.

capturing 11 prisoners, 36 crew-served weapons, 112 small arms, and other miscellaneous enemy weapons.

After the battles at firebases *Coral* and *Balmoral*, in which the 1 ATF defeated the 141st and 165th NVA Infantry Regiments in May 1968; a third Centurion troop, which included two tankdozers, was formed. By September 1968, 'C' Squadron was brought to its full strength of four

troops, each equipped

with four Centurion tanks. By 1969, 'B' Squadron, 3rd Cavalry; 'A' Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment; 'B' Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment; and 'C' Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment, had all made rotations through South Vietnam. Originally deployed as 26 Centurion tanks, after three and a half years of combat operations, 58 Centurions had served in country; 42 had suffered battle damage with six beyond repair and two crewmen had been killed in action.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P06316.003

2 Centurions and an M113 APC in a harbour position in South Vietnam. They are backed up by a 3rd Centurion, out of picture on the right flank.

The Centurion crews, after operating for a few weeks in country, soon learned to remove the protective armoured side skirts from both sides of the tank, to prevent the vegetation and mud from building up between the track and the mudguards. Each Centurion in Vietnam normally carried a basic load of 62 rounds of

20 pounder shells, 4,000 rounds of .50 cal and 9,000 rounds of .30 cal machine gun ammunition for the tank commander's machine gun as well as the two coaxial machine guns. They were equipped with petrol engines, which necessitated the use of an extra externally mounted 100-imperial-gallon (450 L) fuel tank, which was attached to the vehicle's rear.

Next month...The Leopard Main Battle Tank

Pics courtesy Australian War Memorial

Trip to the Military Vehicles Museum @ Edinburgh



The RSAR Association are planning a day trip to visit the National Military Vehicles Museum at Edinburgh on Sunday 19th May 2019 @ 1000 hrs.

Opened in August 1993 at the old Messenger Press building at Port Adelaide and now relocated to a group of historic WW2 era buildings within the Defence precinct of Edinburgh Parks this museum is unique number of ways. The majority of the vehicles are privately owned by the Society members and therefore each member is responsible for their own vehicles. In addition the vehicles are not just restored to look at, they are rebuilt to authentic running condition and most are road registered and driven regularly. Military vehicles and items range from the First World War to current times.

Early bookings will enable us to make a Group Booking for only \$8 per head, and a BBQ lunch can be included for an extra cost.

This will be a fantastic chance to have a look at some great military exhibits, AND catch up with other members of the Association. Reservations can be made by contacting the Secretary ASAP and declaring your interest.

10 Sturton Road Edinburgh SA 5114

C U THERE!





Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

RSAR Association Inc
The Secretary David Laing
Riverglen Marina RSD 3152A
White Sands SA 5253

We're on the web

www.rsara.asn.au

Phone: 0407 791822

E-mail: davidlaing49@bigpond.com



Find us on
Facebook

**Association Merchandise
available**



- Regimental Tie \$20 plus \$3 postage
- Lapel Badge \$10 plus \$3 postage
- Name Badge \$20 plus \$3 postage

Other items like Polo Tops, Stubby Holders and Engraved Timber Shields also available. POR.

Editorial

At the invitation of the Bandmaster of the 10/27 Battalion Band, my wife and I and Norm & Lyn Tregenza attended an Adelaide Fringe show at the Norwood Town Hall on a recent Sunday afternoon.



The show was The Three Little Sisters, a troupe of ladies who sing a tribute to The Andrews Sisters, themselves a famous WW2 era group who sang to support the soldiers, sailors and airmen of that conflict. The girls bopped and rocked their way through a variety of Andrews Sisters classics, and with their brilliant harmonies, were very ably backed by the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR. And as far as a backing group goes, "our" Band can not only hold their own with the best of them, but they can also mix it with some of the best all-round bands in this country! A clarinet solo by SGT David Portakiewicz of "Moonlight Serenade" had the audience captivated, and the 2 hour show ended with a thunderous Standing Ovation from the 500 strong audience.

The Band play at various venues throughout the year, and part proceeds of their shows go to various charities which support veterans. Some contributions and/or donations for the bands services are directed to the RSAR Association, which uses those funds to support the Band AND the Regiment. A WIN WIN situation all round.

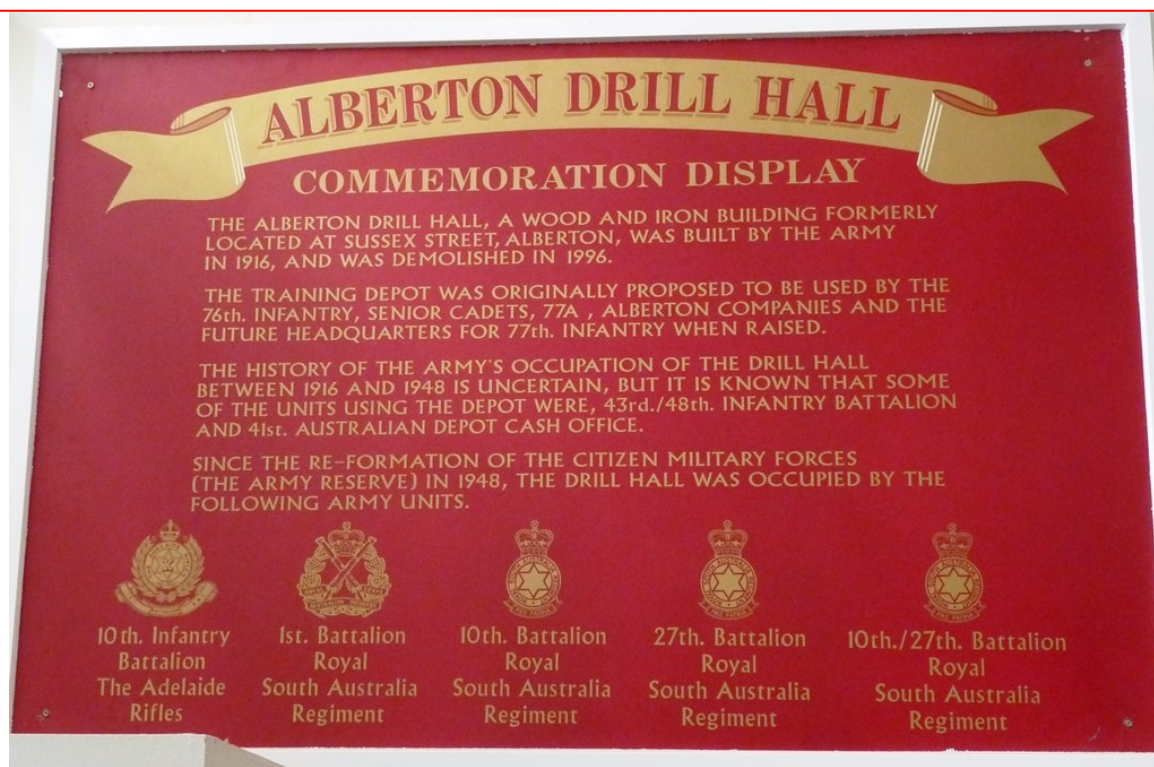
I applaud anyone who can play a musical instrument and still march in time, but I reserve my loudest plaudits for the 10/27 Battalion Band. They're a talented bunch and I'm proud to be associated with them.

David Laing - Editor

Memories of the Alberton Depot.....1970s.....



These pics were sent in by Des Hawkins, and the items are now in the Military Vehicles Museum at Edinburgh. This photo was taken in the Rank & File Canteen. The Mess was occupied by Officers, NCOs and Diggers, regardless of rank. Vince Allen and Des Hawkins are at the bar, Denis Smith behind the bar and the late SGT Jeff Kemp is seated at right. Can anyone help out with other names? Thanks for the pictures and the trip down memory lane, Des!





Rank & File Canteen at Alberton in 1973. A Coy 10 RSAR were the resident Infantry Company. The two purple banners were awards for Best Soldier of certain platoons. One belonged to the Editor (I still have it on the wall in my office) but I'd be interested to know who owned the other banner.



THE ALBERTON DRILL HALL

When the Alberton Drill Hall in Sussex Street, Alberton, was being demolished around the year 2000, a member of the South Australian Military Vehicle Collectors' Society (now the South Australian Military Vehicle Preservation Society) saved the large sign to the right above. The sign was displayed at the National Military Vehicle Museum when the Museum was located at Port Adelaide.

The training depot, built in 1916, was originally proposed to be used by the Alberton Companies of the 76th Infantry Battalion and the 77th Senior Cadets Battalion, and becoming the future headquarters of the 77th Infantry Battalion, when raised. The actual Army's occupation between 1916 and 1948 is uncertain, but some units stationed at the Depot were elements of the 43rd/48th Infantry Battalion the 41st Australian Depot Cash Office. Since the reformation of the Citizens Military Force (CMF), now known as the Army Reserve, in 1948, the Depot has been occupied by A Company of the 10th Infantry Battalion The Adelaide Rifles, E Company of the 1st Battalion Royal South Australian Regiment and the A Company of the following battalions; 10th Battalion Royal South Australian Regiment, 27th Battalion Royal South Australian Regiment, 10th/27th Battalion Royal South Australian Regiment and the band of the 10th/27th Battalion Royal South Australian Regiment.

Former members of units occupying the Alberton Drill Hall, the "Alberton Boys", successfully sought permission from the Museum Committee to establish a display in remembrance of the Drill Hall and the service personnel that passed through it, utilising the saved sign. The "Boys" formed a committee of ten and the planning started, usually at the Alberton Hotel, which had been the "refreshment supplier" for the Drill Hall probably since the Hall was built.

The publishers of the *Portside Messenger*, the local newspaper, were approached and an article was published, calling on all ex "Alberton Boys" and the public for support and memorabilia. A fund raising cabaret was held at the Largs Bay RSL and all raffle prizes were donated by local persons and businesses. The night was socially and financially successful, with many old mates able to reminisce, as some had not seen each other for many years. A large photo board also brought back many memories. The cabaret proceeds financed two display cases and a large information board. Two more fund raising functions were held at one of the "Boys" houses, they both turned out to be typical "Alberton" parties and enough finance was secured to complete the project. A large glass frame was donated to house the Alberton flag, the "Old Red Rooster", which is now housed in the Largs Bay RSL clubrooms. A working bee at the Museum then assembled the display, utilising all of the loaned and donated material.

The committee approached the Port Adelaide Enfield City Council, which resulted in a plaque being donated and erected on the pavement in Sussex Street, adjacent to the Drill Hall site. When the National Military Vehicle Museum relocated to Edinburgh Parks, most of the Alberton display has been reassembled at the new location.

RSAR Association - Financial Members as at February 23, 2018

Honorary Members		Members (ctd.)		Members (ctd.)		
Wilson	Neil	Cotton	Bob	Thomson	Jim	#
Lipman	Ben	Cram	Kevin	Tiller	Garth	
		Dew	Trevor	Tregenza	Norm	
		Eckard	Andries	Trezise	George	
Life Members		Faquiri	Reshad	Tucker	Belinda	
Acton	Chris	Faunt	Joshua	Vella	Joe	#
Beckett	David	Field	Don	Wheeler	Chris	
Blackmore	Bill					
Boscence	Bob	Gatley	Graham			
Bourne	Colin	Genovese	John	ex 10th Inf Bn Members		
Brookes	Philip	Gibson	Lindsay	Bampton	Michael	
Burnard	Trent	Gill	Graham	Chaplin	Tony	
Burns	Wayne	Goodwin	Graham	Collins	Peter	
Carnachan	Ian	Gordon	Frank	Harrison	Keith	
Davey	Trevor	Harrington	Malcolm	Harrison	Nigel	↑
Elliott	Graham	Harrison	John	Hill	Max	
Gaborit	Lyndon	Hawkins	Des	Kearney	Robert	
Hawking	Don	Heath	Jonathan	Larkins	Steve	
Haynes	Malcolm	Humphrys	Jesse	Mclver	Bill	
Hogan	Mark	Jones	Brett	Mulroney	Dennis	
Hook	Alan	Lee	Pat	Pike	Graham	
Hope	David	Loveder	Peter	Rech	Tony	
Horseman	Ian	Martin	Cameron	Richter	Bert	
James	Grant	Matchett	Bill	Sharon	Greg	
Johnson	Barry	McCulloch	Don	Spencer	John	
Klopf	Alex	Mitchell	Barry	Tyson	Tich	
Laing	David	Morony	Frank			
Lakin	Bruce	Munro	Ron	Associate Members		
Marlin	Robin	Oakley	Andrew	Abel	Karen	
Moore	Terry	Orrock	Alan	Ayles	Denise	
Ockenden	Marc	Parslow	Howard	Beames	Cheryl	
Paul	John	Parsonage	James	Carnachan	Dom	
Pollard	Barry	Payne	Bob	Elliott	Julie	
Stewart	Robin	Perkins	Bob	Field	Shirley	
Stewien	Peter	Phillips	Colin Rex	Hook	Philippa	
Waters	Ian	Portakiewicz	Anthony	Johnson	Margaret	↑
Westover	Rhys	Portakiewicz	David	Klopf	Josie	↑
Wilson	Graham	Preece	Brian	Laing	June	↑
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg	Rado	Stephen	Lee	Ann	
		Ramm	Hank	Sanderson	Lorraine	
Associate Life Members		Ranger	Denis	Tregenza	Lyn	
Phillips	Heather	Rathmann	Norm	Winger	Kathleen	
		Rathmann	John			
Members		Rijken	Paul			
Abel	Colin	Robertson	James			
Attenborough	Geoff	Rossetti	Lee			
Ayles	Jeff	Rushton	Benjamin			
Beames	Rodney	Sage	Andrew			
Bennett	Christian	Sanders	Ashley			Σ
Blondell	Mark	Sanderson	Max			
Boath	Ian	Schoeman	Johannes			
Brophy	Ryan	Scott	Rhys			
Brown	Bruce	Scown	Neville			
Burton	Ray	Skapin	Corey			
Chittleborough	Jeff	Standing	Michael			↑
Cooke	Nat	Thomas	David			#
						Σ

Honorary Members	2
Life Members	34
Associate Life Members	1
Members	70
Serving Members	20
Associate Members	14
Total financial members	141

Prepaid Members		
	2019/20	↑
	2020/21	#
	2021/22	Σ

CPL DAVE'S PAGE

Two businessmen in the centre of London were sitting down for a break in their soon-to-be new store.

As yet, the store wasn't ready, with only a few shelves set up.

One said to the other, "I bet any minute now some pensioner is going to walk by, put their face to the window, and ask what we're selling."

No sooner were the words out of his mouth when, sure enough, a curious old woman walked to the window, had a peek, and in a soft voice asked, "What are you selling here?"

One of the men replied sarcastically, "We're selling arseholes."

Without skipping a beat, the old woman said, "Must be doing well... Only two left!!"

IF LOVE IS BLIND WHY IS LINGERIE SO POPULAR?

A man in Newcastle walked into the produce section of his local supermarket and asked to buy half a head of lettuce. The boy working in that department told him that they only sold whole heads of lettuce.

The man was insistent that the boy ask the manager about the matter.

Walking into the back room, the boy said to the manager,

"Some old bastard outside wants to buy half a head of lettuce."

As he finished his sentence, he turned around to find that the man had followed and was standing right behind him, so the boy quickly added, "and this gentleman kindly offered to buy the other half."

The manager approved the deal and the man went on his way.

Later, the manager said to the boy.....

"I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier, we like people who can think on their feet here, where are you from son?"

"New Zealand, sir," the boy replied.

"Why did you leave New Zealand?" the manager asked

The boy said, "Sir, there's nothing but prostitutes and rugby players there."

"Is that right?" replied the manager, "My wife is from New Zealand!"

"Really?" replied the boy, "Who did she play for?"

