



“SITREP, OVER!”



Official Newsletter of The Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

APRIL 2013

Editor—David Laing 0407 791 822

• Inside this issue

- 27th SA Scottish Regt
- JUST SOLDIERS
- TEN Shortest Wars in History
- Anzac Day 2013
-Warning Order
- Australia in the Vietnam War - Part 3
- Changing of The Guard
- CPL Knuckles says.....
- Aboriginal Australians at War - Part 2
- Members List
- How to contact us

UPCOMING LUNCH DATES & CoM Meetings

LUNCHES

- 25th April (ANZAC)
 - 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

My mind works like lightning. One brilliant flash and it's gone.

27th Battalion (SA Scottish Regiment)

After the First World War the defence of the Australian mainland lay with the part time soldiers of the Citizens Military Force, otherwise known as the Militia. The Militia was organized to maintain the structure of the First AIF and kept the same numerical designations. In 1928 the 27th Infantry Battalion became associated with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (the 27th Regiment of Foot).

In 1938 the 27th became the “South Australian Scottish Regiment”, wearing the MacKenzie tartan, and was associated with the Seaforth Highlanders. Unusually the 27th also maintained a pipe band which, evidently, was not always appreciated by its sister battalions when the brigade was in camp. The 27th was originally part of South Australia's 3rd Brigade.

With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the 27th was called up for protective duties in South Australia and held regular training camps. On 9 December, two days after Japan entered the war, the battalion was mobilised and travelled to Darwin by road and rail - the journey took six days.

The battalion was based at Winnellie and throughout January worked on defensive positions at Nightcliff, Casuarina, Rapid Creek, Shoal Bay, Leanyah Swap, Howard River, and Lee point. The 27th got its first taste of action in Darwin, with the Japanese bombings of the town throughout 1942.

In December 1943 the 27th joined the 23rd Brigade, previously part of the 8th Division. When two of its battalions were captured on Ambon and Timor the brigade was reformed with Militia units. The 7th and 8th Battalions also joined the brigade. After being in Darwin for over a year, in March 1943 the 27th was relieved and returned to Adelaide. In December the battalion again headed north, this time to the Atherton Tablelands for intensive training.

The 27th was destined for more garrison duties. As part of the Bougainville campaign, the 23rd Brigade was to relieve the American garrisons on the Outer Islands in September 1944. The 27th took over from the Americans on Green (Nissen) Island and were the first Australian troops to land in the Solomon Islands.

The 27th's role was to defend the airfield on Green Island and conducted surveillance of the surrounding islands still occupied by the Japanese. To escape the boredom and monotony, volunteers from the 23rd Brigade also worked as crews on American PT boats, raiding Japanese occupied islands in New Ireland and New Britain.

In 1945 the 23rd Brigade moved to Bougainville, becoming responsible for the Central and Northern Sectors. In March the 27th moved into the Central Sector, relieving the 55/53rd Infantry Battalion on the Laruma River and the 31/51st Infantry Battalion on Pearl Ridge in April. After years of static garrison duties, the 27th was finally about to go into combat. For six weeks the battalion patrolled extensively and carried out several small attacks, capturing Little Hunt's and Berry's Hills, as well as Tiernan's Spur.

Having been “blooded”, the 27th moved to the Bonis Peninsula in the Northern Sector. The Japanese were far more active in the Northern Sector and, like the Australians, carried out long range patrols and set booby traps. The 27th was also subject to frequent shelling from Japanese artillery, even on 15 August, the day Japan surrendered.

In September the 27th returned to Torokina, the Australian base on Bougainville. With the war over, the ranks of the 27th thinned, as men were discharged, transferred, or volunteered for the occupation of Japan. By mid-1946 most of the battalion had returned to civilian life and the 27th was disbanded on 1 May 1946.

Sourced from www.wikepeida.com



Pte Edward Elart

JUST SOLDIERS

Part 2

Assessing the situation, Elart complained to his superior, 'But Sir, we're miles short of our objective'. 'We've been landed in the wrong spot. The enemy has the high ground, knows the country and he's got reinforcements moving up. I think we're in strife mate, so just start digging', the officer replied. That first night was one of sleepless anticipation for the ANZAC troops. The smarter ones knew how precarious their situation really was. If one part of the ANZAC line were to be breached, they would be overrun. The Turks were determined to drive out the invaders and their attacks were relentless. The Diggers fought like demons and held their position—but at a terrible cost in young lives.

Life on the Peninsula had become a routine of living and fighting in trenches and dugouts. It was a campaign of sniping and bombing under the constant threat from enemy snipers and artillery. To put one's head above the parapet was to risk having it blown off. By mid-May, the Diggers had been subjected to a continuous enemy barrage and the Turks now were poised for an all-out attack, their objective to push the infidels back into the sea.

Elart took his place in the line, two of his mates standing on either side of him. 'Right lads, watch your front, mark your targets carefully', the sergeant ordered. In the blink of an eye, there they were—Turks, hordes of them, screaming and yelling, heading straight towards the ANZAC line.

'God help us', Elart prayed. Bullets flew in all directions—it was on for young and old. As fast as he used up one clip of ammunition, Elart slammed another into place. An incoming round struck the soldier on his right, throwing him backwards and, less than a minute later, the Digger on his left took a round between the eyes. The Turks had reached the threshold of the Australian trenches. Elart continued to squeeze the trigger, eject the expended round, fire, eject, fire and eject—it was just a blur. Suddenly it was over and the Turks were withdrawing. The Diggers continued to engage the enemy as the Turks broke and ran. When Elart finally laid down his rifle, its barrel was smouldering and red-hot. He examined the bloody crease where a bullet had grazed his upper arm and considered how lucky he had been.



AWM A01829. Troops of an Australian battalion on the deck of the battleship Prince of Wales in Mudros Harbour just before the landing at Gallipoli.

During the ensuing weeks, the events surrounding the deaths of his two friends continually played on his mind and he couldn't help but contemplate how close he had come to joining them. After much agonising he wrote two letters, one to his commanding officer and the other to General Walker, now in command of the 1st Division. When he had finished, he asked the company clerk to ensure that they were delivered. A Turkish machine-gun had been set up and was causing havoc in front of the 1st Battalion's position. Sergeant Harry Freame, the battalion's renowned Japanese–Australian scout, had unsuccessfully ventured out over the previous two nights in an attempt to silence the gun. On the night of 6 June, he was ordered to go out again. 'I'll need a couple

of blokes to go with me', Freame said. A newly arrived lad by the name of Morris said he'd go and the other volunteer was Edward Elart.

Just after dark, the trio crawled out from their lines—Freame armed with his customary twin pistols and five bombs, the other two with a rifle and two bombs each. The three silently moved forward and suddenly there it was, the troublesome machine-gun. Each primed a bomb and on Freame's command they hurled them towards their target, the missiles landing fairly close to their mark. The Diggers then moved to the rear of the gun and threw more bombs. The Turks retaliated with rifle fire. The threesome continued changing their position until they had expended their supply of bombs. In a last-ditch effort, Freame emptied his pistols in the direction of the enemy post. Out of ammunition, the men snaked their way back towards the ANZAC line. Elart was in the lead, Morris behind him and Freame brought up the rear. They made it through the first strands of wire before Elart got caught on one of them, jangling some old jam tins that had been attached to it. The pre-action arrangement had been that there would be no firing until the party was safely 'home' but, unfortunately, no-one had informed the young sentry who instinctively fired towards the noise.

Part 3 next month

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



TEN Shortest Wars in History

No. 8 - The Second Balkan War - 32 Days



Year Fought: 1913

Between: Bulgaria vs Greece, Serbia, Montenegro, Romania, Ottoman Empire

Outcome: Bulgarian defeat

The Second Balkan War was fought in 1913 between Bulgaria on one side and its First Balkan War allies Greece and Serbia on the other side, with Romania and the Ottoman Empire intervening against Bulgaria. The outcome turned Serbia, an ally of the Russian Empire, into an important regional power, alarming Austria-Hungary and thereby indirectly providing an important cause for World War I. Despite stabilising the front in Macedonia, the Bulgarian government's acceptance of an armistice was driven by events far from Macedonia. Romania

invaded on 27 June/10 July, occupying the undefended Southern Dobruja and marching through Northern Bulgaria to threaten Sofia. The Ottoman Empire also took advantage of the situation to recover some of their former possessions in Thrace including Adrianople (which the Bulgarians abandoned on 23 July without firing a shot). Bulgaria lost most of the territories gained in the First Balkan War including the southern Dobrudja (to Romania), most of Macedonia, and Eastern Thrace (to the Ottomans), while retaining Western Thrace, its Aegean outlet, with the port of Dedeagach. The boundary settlements of the Treaties of Bucharest and Constantinople were only temporary; ten months later the fighting was renewed with the start of the First World War.

Next month:- The Greco/Turkish War

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.

As in previous years we will assemble in Group 12 (A). The Forming Up Point (FUP) this year will be on the southern side of Grenfell Street, west of Pulteney Street, and the Start Time for us to commence marching will be approximately 1020 hrs. Please see Page 7 for a more concise instruction.

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

**Contact NORM RATHMANN NOW for lunch bookings on 0448 460 884 or normqeelong@yahoo.com.
NO BOOKING, NO SEAT!**

DRESS STANDARD (optional) is:

Medals, as awarded, on left breast: 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.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

A new President at the Helm

Since the 2012 AGM the Committee of Management (CoM) has been grooming **Rodney Beames** for the President's role at Metro Branch. Alan Hook and the Committee now feel that Rodney has the skills to take over this job and lead our branch into the future. Rodney has graciously accepted the task, and steps into his new position as of now. We wish Rodney all the success the position demands.

Alan Hook was instrumental in getting the Metro Branch up and running, and has done a stellar job in it's operation as the President, a role not willingly taken on by most others. The CoM and all members thank Alan for his outstanding leadership, guidance, understanding and support over the past 8 years and trust he can now sit back, relax and smell the roses.

A sincere thank you, Alan!

David Laing - Secretary



Australia in the Vietnam War Part 3

CPL Knuckles says.....

By 1969 anti-war protests were gathering momentum in Australia. Opposition to conscription mounted, as more people came to believe the war could not be won. A "Don't register" campaign to dissuade young men from registering for conscription gained increasing support and some of the protests grew violent. The US government began to implement a policy of "Vietnamisation", the term coined for a gradual withdrawal of US forces that would leave the war in the hands of the South Vietnamese. With the start of the phased withdrawals, the emphasis of the activities of the Australians in Phuoc Tuy province shifted to the provision of training to the South Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces.



At the end of April 1970 US and South Vietnamese troops were ordered to cross the border into Cambodia. While the invasion succeeded in capturing large quantities of North Vietnamese arms, destroying bunkers and sanctuaries, and killing enemy soldiers, it ultimately proved disastrous. By bringing combat into Cambodia, the invasion drove many people to join the underground opposition, the Khmer Rouge, irreparably weakening the Cambodian government. When the Khmer Rouge came to power in April 1975, it imposed a cruel and repressive regime that killed several million Cambodians and left the country with internal conflict that continues to day.

At the end of April 1970 US and South Viet-

The extension of the war into a sovereign state, formally neutral, inflamed anti-war sentiment in the United States and provided the impetus for further anti-war demonstrations in Australia. In the well-known Moratorium marches of 1970 and 1971, more than 200,000 people gathered to protest against the war, in cities and towns throughout the country.



I was telling a girl in the pub about my ability to guess what day a woman was born just by feeling their breasts, "Really" she said. "Go on then...try" After about 30 seconds of fondling she began to lose patience. "Come on, what day was I born?" I said, "yesterday".

I went to the pub last night and saw a fat bird dancing on a table, I said to her, "Those are fantastic legs". The girl giggled and said with a smile "Do you really think so ". I said "Definitely, most tables would have collapsed by now".

I got caught having a pee in the local swimming pool today. The lifeguard shouted at me that loud I nearly fell in!

See youse soon!

Sourced from www.awm.gov.au

Concludes next month



Aboriginal Australians at War

Part 2

Enlistment Second World War

At the start of the Second World War Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islanders were allowed to enlist and many did so. But in 1940 the Defence Committee decided the enlistment of Indigenous Australians was "neither necessary nor desirable", partly because White Australians would object to serving with them. However, when Japan entered the war increased need for manpower forced the loosening of restrictions. Torres Strait Islanders were recruited in large numbers and Indigenous Australians increasingly enlisted as soldiers and were recruited or conscripted into labour corps.

In the front line

With the Japanese advance in 1942, Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islanders in the north found themselves in the front line against the attackers. There were fears that Aboriginal contact with Japanese pearlers before the war might lead to their giving assistance to the enemy. Like the peoples of South-East Asia under colonial regimes, Indigenous Australians might easily have seen the Japanese as liberators from White rule. Many did express bitterness at their treatment, but, overwhelmingly, Indigenous Australians supported the country's defence.



Service in the army

Hundreds of Indigenous Australians served in the 2nd AIF and the militia. Many were killed fighting and at least a dozen died as prisoners of war. As in the First World War, Indigenous Australians served under the same conditions as Whites and, in most cases, with the promise of full citizenship rights after the war. Generally, there seems to have been little racism between soldiers.

The post Second World War period

Returned soldiers

Wartime service gave many Indigenous Australians pride and confidence in demanding their rights. Moreover, the army in northern Australia had been a benevolent employer compared to pre-war pastoralists and helped to change attitudes to Indigenous Australians as employees.

Nevertheless, Indigenous Australians who fought for their country came back to much the same discrimination as before. For example, many were barred from Returned and Services League clubs, except on ANZAC Day. Many of them were not given the right to vote for another 17 years.

Enlistment after the war

Once the intense demands of the war were gone, the army re-imposed its restrictions on enlistment. But attitudes had changed and restrictions based on race were abandoned in 1949. Since then Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islanders have served in all conflicts in which Australia has participated.

Other services

Little is known about how many Indigenous Australians have served in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). The numbers are likely lower than for the army but future research may tell a different story.

RAAF

Throughout the Second World War the RAAF, with its huge need for manpower, was less restrictive in its recruiting than the army. However, little is known about Aboriginal aircrew. Indigenous Australians were employed for surveillance in northern Australia and to rescue downed pilots.

Later in Borneo. The squadron flew Kittyhawk fighters like the one on display in the Memorial's Aircraft Hall.

Author: Peter Londey - Military History Section - Australian War Memorial

Part 3 in June Edition



METRO MEMBERS

Apostolides, Chris
 Attenborough, Geoff
 Ayles, Jeff
 Baldwin, Bob
 Bates, Allan
 Beames, Rod CoM
 Boath, Ian
 Boscence, Bob
 # Broadbent, Robert SM
 Brookes, Phil
 Brown, Bruce
 Brown, Harry
 Carnachan, Ian
VALE Castle, Graham
 Chittleborough, Jeff
 Cooke, Nat CoM
 Cotton, Bob
 # Dart, John
 Davey, Jack
 Davey, John
 Davey, Trevor
 Demosani, Tony
 Dubsy, Eddie
 Dunn, Peter
 Dunn, Bob
 Durdin, Russell
 # Durrant, Chris
 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
 Keenan, Alan
 Kilford, Brian
 Klopf, Alex LM CoM
 Klopf, Paul
 Laing, David LM CoM
 Lampard, Ross
 Lee, Pat
 Loveder, Peter
 Lockett, John
 Longstaff, Paul
 Main, Brian
 Marcus, Ray
 Martin, Bob
 Matchett, Bill
 Mau, Mark
 McCulloch, Don
 McDougal, Doug
 McMullin, Jim
 Mitchell, Barry
 Mitchell, David
 Monro, Ron
 Moore, Jeffrey
 Moore, Terry
 Morony, Frank CoM
 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, John
 Rathmann, Norm CoM
 Ramm, Hank
 Robertson, Jim
 Rossetti, Lee
 Sage, Andrew
 Salamon, Peter
 Sanderson, Max
 Sprigg, Rob
 Standing, Michael
 Steer, Phil
 Stewart, Rob (Stewy)
 Tiller, Garth
 Thomson, Jim CoM
 Tregenza, Norm CoM
 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
 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**
 CoM Denotes **COMMITTEE MEMBER**
 LM Denotes **LIFE MEMBER**
 SM Denotes **SERVING ADF MEMBER**
 135 Members as at 1 March 2013

HOW TO CONTACT US

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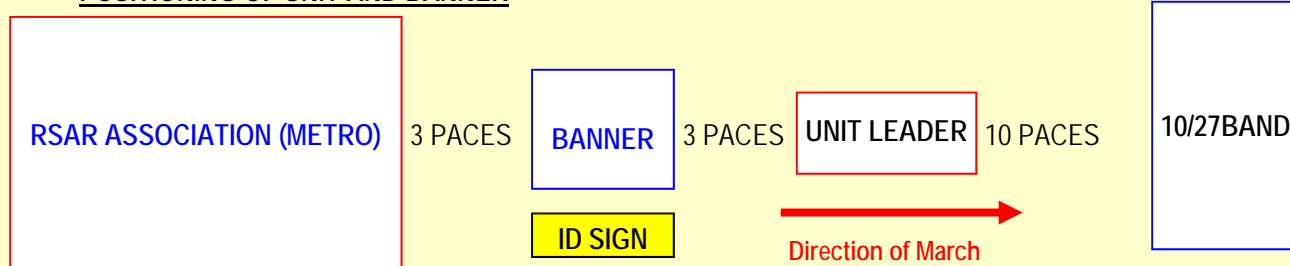
Committee

PRESIDENT
 Rodney Beames
SECRETARY
 David Laing
TREASURER
 Alan Orrock
COMMITTEE
 Alan Hook
 Alex Klopf
 Norm Rathmann
 Graham Gilmore
 Norm Tregenza
 Frank Morony
 Jim Thomson
 Grant James
 Nat Cooke
 Brian Preece

The Association has received a timely reminder from the RSL (SA) ANZAC Day Committee of the importance of following instructions and authorised requests for the successful conduct of the ANZAC Day March this year.

The full instruction has been posted to the President, the Secretary and the ASM (Association Sergeant Major) for their perusal. An amended list of the most important points is contained here.

- **TIMINGS**
0930 hrs ANZAC Day march commences.
1020 hrs Group 12 (A) to be in location ready to step off.
- **MEDALS**
Marchers are encouraged to wear medals as awarded on their left breast and NOK medals on their right breast.
- **ASSEMBLY AREA**
Group 12 (A) Southern side of Grenfell Street, west from Pulteney Street to Chesser Street.
- **FREE CAR PARKING**
Free car parking has been generously provided by UPark, and will be available during the times shown below on ANZAC day for those wearing medals or RSL badge, **on departure** from the following locations:-
UPark Gawler Place 0001 - 1800 hrs **UPark Rundle Street** 0630 - 1800 hrs
Entry to Gawler Place Car Park will NOT be available 0500 and 0700 hrs and BOTH car parks from 0800 - 1100 hrs due to road closures.
- **CARRIAGE OF FLAGS AND BANNERS**
The carriage of flags and banners is the responsibility of the marching unit. The RSAR Association banner is to be carried by personnel nominated by the ASM.
- **POSITIONING OF UNIT AND BANNER**



- **RATE OF MARCH**
Personnel in Group 12 (A) will march at **108 paces per minute**. (*The RSAR Association is NOT expected to slow the rate of march to allow members of the Royal Australian Corps of Transport or the Australian Army Health Services behind us to keep up.*) We will be proudly led by the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment.
- **UNIT FRONTAGE**
All units are to assemble and march **6 ABREAST**. This is the responsibility of the ASM.
If a BLANK FILE is required, it is to be located in the 2nd to rear rank.
- **CONDUCT**
All participants are requested to refrain from calling out loudly to those lining the route, or waving or calling out to TV cameras - all of which generate criticism., detract from the solemnity of the occasion, and reflect poorly on the day.
- **PAYING OF COMPLIMENTS**
All marchers are to pay compliments at the three official Saluting Points. The Unit Banner is to be dipped at these points.
THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL
THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL
THE OFFICIAL (VICE REGAL) SALUTING POINT (near Torrens Parade Ground)
- **DISPERSAL POINT**
10/27 RSAR Band and RSAR Association are to keep marching until they reach King William Rd (East) where they will be halted by the ASM on signal from SES personnel. **NO PERSONNEL ARE TO BREAK RANKS UNTIL DISMISSED BY THE ASM.**

The ANZAC Day Committee and ANZAC Day Commemorative March have put considerable time and effort into the planning of the day. Your cooperation and support is requested to assist this goal.

David Laing—Secretary.