

"Sitrep, Over!"



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

Editor - David Laing 0407 791 822

APRIL 2017

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What was YOUR ANZAC Day like this year?

In years gone by my wife and I would travel from Murray Bridge to Adelaide and while I would march with the old and bold of the Regiment, my wife June would hurriedly walk the same route and take pictures of our magnificent marching group along the way.

This year we will be part of the Dawn Service at Murray Bridge, and after at the Gunfire Breakfast at the Murray Bridge RSL. This year we won't be making it down the hill to Adelaide, so we need all those who ARE going to march in Adelaide, to send some photos to this newsletter so they can be published in May's edition.

Just about everyone these days has a mobile phone with a camera in it, so please take a couple of pics and email them to the newsletter at davidlaing49@bigpond.com or rsarassociation@live.com

The rest of the world also needs to know what our "mob" looks like, and how well we represent the association, so please take the time to send me some photos and I'll do the rest.

No pictures = boring newsletter, and no one wants that!

Des Hawkins sent some pics a couple of years ago, as did Jeff Dunn from Darwin, so those guys have proven you CAN do it! Waiting. Out!

Think Piece - Veterans SA . Indigenous Brothers in Arms

This week's Think Piece has been contributed by **Michael Von Berg MC OAM**.

Mike von Berg served with the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment before attending Officer Cadet School, Portsea, graduating in 1965. In 1966/67 he saw active service in Vietnam with Reconnaissance Platoon, 5RAR during which time he was awarded the Military Cross.

This was followed by service in the Special Air Service Regiment, Commandos, and Staff Postings before resigning his commission in 1973. Mike lived, studied and worked in the UK, Germany, Austria, USA, South Africa and Kenya before returning to Australia in 1984 to take up his position as a director of The Hardy Wine Company. He established his own strategic management consultancy in 1991, which operated for some 20 years before retiring in 2011.

Mike is the President of the RAR Association (SA). He is also the National Chairman of the RAR Corporation and Council, and a member of the Ex Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) at federal level. He currently sits on the Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Veterans' Mental Health and on South

Australia's Veterans Advisory Council.

He is a life and hall of fame member of South Australian Rugby Union, and past director of the Australian Rugby Union. Mike was recently awarded an OAM for his services to Rugby.



Story continues on Page 10

On the 14th of January 2017, we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gemas. The Battle of Gemas is not a household name but is significant because it was the first major Australian battle against the Japanese in World War II, a well-planned ambush that was one of the few successes for the Allied forces in the Pacific in 1942.

The Japanese invaded Malaya on the 8th of December 1941, quickly advancing and pushing back the British and Indian forces throughout December and into January 1942. After the invasion and the disastrous Battle of Slim River, General Percival, General Officer Commanding Malaya (GOCM), assessed that the most that could be done, pending the arrival of reinforcements, was to attempt to slow the Japanese advance and hold Johore, the southern state of Malaya linked to Singapore.

Charged with carrying out this action was the 2nd/30th Battalion, under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel F G "Black Jack" Galleghan. The 2nd/30th was formed on the 22nd November 1940 in Tamworth, mainly drawing men from NSW, reinforced from other states. It was a well trained unit and the soldiers became known as Galleghan's Greyhounds, after their Commander.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

127895

Malaya, 17/1/1942 – A Japanese type 97 Tankette, camouflaged by leaves, in the Gemas area during the invasion of the Malayan Peninsula.

The 2nd/30th was ordered to act as a "shock-absorber" at first contact with the enemy, to inflict as many casualties as possible, and to hold its position for at least 24 hours before falling back. Major General Gordon Bennett, Commander of the Australian 8th Division, had long discussed with his commanders the belief that resolute aggressive action might check the Japanese advance. General Bennett also hoped that that such actions may also disrupt the Japanese plans.

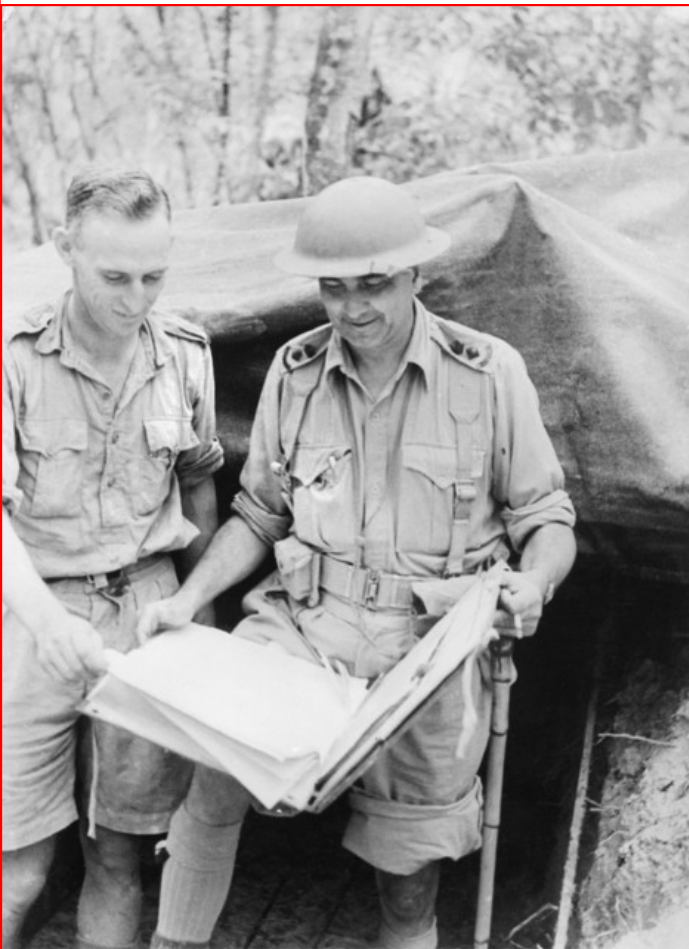
An ambush was planned at Gemas. Instructions were given for the withdrawal of the III Indian Corps leaving the Japanese unchallenged for 30 miles. Orders were given for "...bridges along the road to be left intact to give the impression of a helter-skelter retreat and tempt the Japanese to become over-confident and careless as they continued their advance." High hopes were entertained about what could be achieved by the 2nd/30th Battalion, toughened by strenuous training and severe discipline, when it encountered the enemy in such circumstances.

The 2nd/30th Battalion chose an ambush location near the Gemencheh River, seven miles west of Gemas. This was chosen as it consisted of a main road leading to a wooden bridge over a small river where dense jungle grew on both sides of the road. "B" Company, under the command of Captain Duffy, was entrusted with the ambush, while the rest of the battalion was established in

other positions around Gemas.

At approximately 4pm on the 14th of January a small number of Japanese soldiers on bicycles entered the ambush site, followed by a column of Japanese troops riding five or six abreast. It was remarked that "they looked more like a picnic party rather than an advancing army". Believing the sounds they heard down the road to be motor transport and possibly the main body of the enemy convoy, Captain Duffy decided to allow the 200 – 300 cyclists through to be dealt with by the troops in the rear. The noise they heard actually turned out to be three motor cyclists, followed by several hundred more Japanese troops on bicycles.

Captain Duffy waited for this group to be tightly packed into the ambush site and on the bridge, and gave the order to blow the bridge. The explosion flung bicycles, bodies and pieces of the bridge skywards. Almost simultaneously three of Captain Duffy's platoons swept the Japanese troops with machine gun fire and launched grenades into the ambush.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

011304/04

Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Galleghan examining a map with Sergeant Heckendorf outside the command post at Gemas.

An artillery bombardment was scheduled at this point however, the signal lines for both Captain Duffy and the artillery observer had been cut and the signal to begin the barrage was unable to be sent. The battle only lasted 20 minutes. Captain Duffy stated "...the entire 300 yards of road was thickly covered with dead and dying men."

Mindful of the 200 to 300 troops who had moved through the ambush site, Captain Duffy ordered his Company to withdraw. During the withdrawal a number of troops were engaged and wounded in skirmishes including one of the Platoon Commanders, Lieutenant Head. As it appeared that the Japanese were amassed in numbers along the road, Captain Duffy led his company single file through the jungle. During the withdrawal a large section of men split from the main group, including all of the platoon commanders.

Lieutenant Head was leading the second group until the pain from his earlier injury forced him to give up the lead. Unaware the other platoon

leaders (Lieutenant Jones and Lieutenant Geike) were in his column, he handed the lead to Sergeant Doolan, a shop assistant from Stawell, VIC. It wasn't until they made their way out of the jungle the next morning that they became aware of who was in their column and Lieutenant Jones took charge. Japanese forces attacked the rear guard on a number of occasions but were beaten back. During one of these attacks six men were listed as missing, their last words to their comrades: "We'll pin them down – you get back". They were never seen again and were presumed dead.

There were miraculous stories of survival. Lance Corporal Hann, a barman from Moree NSW, became separated from his unit after he jumped into a river when he was fired upon. Hann was

captured by the Japanese and imprisoned in a hut. A local Tamil freed Lance Corporal Hann and disguised him in a turban and Indian clothing. He was given supplies and was guided through the jungle. Eventually he came across an Australian patrol and removed the turban to ensure he was recognised as an Australian soldier.

Despite the early success of the ambush, within six hours of the bridge being blown the Japanese had rebuilt it and were able to advance. Japanese tanks moved towards the battalion's main position, a roadblock just outside Gemas. They were sighted soon after 9am on the 15th of January. Six of the eight tanks that advanced on the roadblock were destroyed by the men of "C" Company, under the command of Captain Lamacraft, 4 Anti-Tank Regiment, and fire from 2nd/15th Field Regiment.

As sections of Captain Duffy's company began arriving back with information on the successful ambush, Lieutenant Colonel Galleghan ordered "D" Company, under the command of Captain Melville, to advance on a hill held by the Japanese. As a result of this assault "D" Company inflicted heavy casualties on the Japanese and forced their withdrawal. Captain Morrison took over command when Captain Melville was wounded. The men of "D" Company continued their attack, despite Japanese resistance, until they were confronted by several tanks and came under heavy cross fire. Only then did Captain Morrison give the order to withdraw to their previous position.

The Japanese took advantage of their superiority in the air. Dive bombers began hitting Gemas and the battalion headquarters. No trenches had been dug at the headquarters building and the men could do little more than cower on the ground as the bombs exploded around them. Reports indicate that Lieutenant Colonel Galleghan suspected the Japanese had been able to locate battalion headquarters through wireless signals and he abandoned use of the radio for short distance communications.

Japanese Forces began rapidly growing in strength on the immediate front. The battalion began to withdraw in the early afternoon. In two days of fierce fighting the battalion suffered approximately 20 missing or killed and over 50 men wounded. The toll they inflicted on the Japanese is reported to be approximately 1000 men.

The 2nd/30th Battalion continued to fight with distinction. Sadly, less than a month later the battalion was captured when Singapore fell and its soldiers spent the rest of the war as Prisoners of War. Over 300 men from the 2nd/30th died during captivity.

Lieutenant Colonel Galleghan became commander of the AIF prisoners and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his part in the Battle of Gemas.



CONTACT US!-

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We're on the Web

www.rsara.asn.au



**Find us on
Facebook**

Dear David

For the interest of Members, I enclose some 10 RSAR history.

Firstly, a photo of the 10Bn Officers Mess of 1974, which includes a number of current Association members.

Secondly, a photo of the 10RSAR Colour Party which participated in the Silver Jubilee Parade for Her Majesty, The Queen, in Canberra on 8 March 1977. (*This pic will be in next months newsletter. Editor.*)

The Colour Party, left of photo, consisted of

Sgt Ron Blake, closest to camera

Sgt Jeff Ayles,

Lt David Harris, Queens Colour, closest to camera, front rank

RSM WO1 Thomson (I think?)

Lt Bruce Lakin, 10RSAR Colour

On the band side of the 10RSAR party was 9RQR.

A great occasion!

Thanks again for keeping the Spirit alive!

With my best regards,

Bruce Lakin

10 BATTALION THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT OFFICERS MESS 1974



Insert:

LT E VICKERY.

Back Row (L to R.): 2LT L GIBSON. CAPT T FISCHER. 2LT R SMITH. LT A KIDNEY. LT C MOORE. 2LT W VAN DIEMEN. 2LT D STOCKER.

Middle Row (L to R.): 2LT H BOHN. 2LT J PAUL. LT R SMYTH. 2LT J GENOVESE. LT B EDWARDS. LT D LYNCH.

Front Row: (L to R.): CAPT P THOMPSON. CAPT R HALLIDAY. MAJ E JOHNSTONE. MAJ W JOHNS. LT COL T TWIBLE. MAJ G ATTENBOROUGH. CAPT W BATES BROWNSWORD. CAPT J YENNING.

Insert:

2LT B LAKIN.

Learning To Swear

A 6 year old and a 4 year old are playing the back yard.

The 6 year old asks, *"You know what? I think it's about time we started learning to swear."*

The 4 year old nods his head in approval.

The 6 year old continues, *"When we go in for breakfast, I'm gonna say something with "hell" and you say something with "ass."*

The 4 year old agrees with enthusiasm.

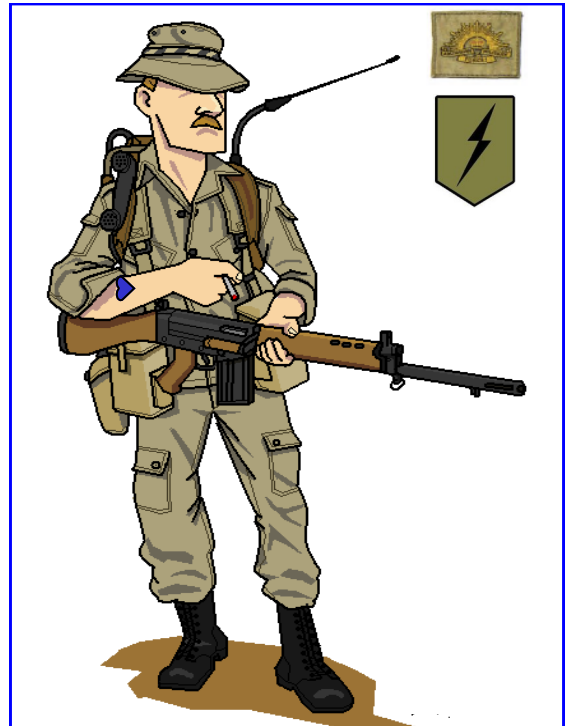
When the mother walks into the kitchen and asks the 6 year old what he wants for breakfast, he replies, *"Aw, hell, Mom, I guess I'll have some Weetbix."*

Whack! He flies out of his chair, tumbles across the kitchen floor, gets up, and runs upstairs crying his eyes out, with his mother in hot pursuit, slapping his rear with every step.

His mom locks him in his room and shouts, *"You can stay there until I let you out!"*

She then comes back downstairs, looks at the 4 year old and asks with a stern voice, *"And what do you want for breakfast, young man"*

"I don't know," he blubbers, *"but you can bet your fat ass it won't be Weetbix!"*



CPL DAVOS'
PAGE

Paddy had been drinking at his local pub all day and most of the night, celebrating St Patrick's Day.

Mick, the bartender says, 'You'll not be drinking anymore tonight, Paddy'.

Paddy replies, 'OK Mick, I'll be on my way then'. Paddy spins around on his stool and steps off. He falls flat on his face.

'Damn' he says and pulls himself up by the stool and dusts himself off. He takes a step towards the door and falls flat on his face, 'oh bloody damn!'

He looks to the doorway and thinks to himself that if he can just get to the door and some fresh air he'll be fine.

He belly crawls to the door and shimmies up to the door frame. He sticks his head outside and takes a deep breath of fresh air, feels much better and takes a step out onto the sidewalk and falls flat on his face.

'Bi' Jesus... I'm in bloody trouble,' he says.

He can see his house just a few doors down, and crawls to the door, hauls himself up the door frame, opens the door and shimmies inside.

He takes a look up the stairs and says 'No bloody way....'

He crawls up the stairs to his bedroom door and says 'I can make it to the bed'. He takes a step into the room and falls flat on his face. He says 'damn it' and falls into bed.

The next morning, his wife, Jess, comes into the room carrying a cup of coffee and says, 'Get up Paddy. Did you have a bit to drink last night?'

Paddy says, 'I did, Jess. I was bloody pissed. But how did you know?'

'Mick phoned ... You left your wheelchair at the pub.'

UNCLASSIFIED

David,

Long time no speak, I hope you are well.

As you may remember I used to be the Public Affairs Officer at HQ SA AAC BDE, however I am now serving in the Royal Australian Navy on full time service.

As you are a member of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association I wanted to bring to your attention that on Sunday, 5th of March the Australian War Memorial Last Post ceremony honoured Second Lieutenant Walter Wilsdon who was killed in Belgium on 08 Oct 1917 whilst serving with the 10th Battalion.

I grew up in the same district that 2LT Wilsdon was from, and as such was asked by the local (Jamestown & District) RSL to lay a wreath on their behalf. The reading was conducted by a RAAF Squadron Leader.

The CO 10/27 RSAR was aware that I was laying a wreath. Importantly I wanted the Association to be aware that a uniformed member was there to honour his service.

Kind regards,

Benjamin Robinson

LEUT, RAN

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World War 1's The Battle for Noreuil – 100 year Remembrance

Sent in by member Kathleen Winger,

100 years ago - April 2 1917 "brought both sorrow and pride to many homes in South Australia, On that day the 50th Battalion (a battalion formed from 500 men, being half from the original 10th Battalion soldiers of Gallipoli, then built to strength with new reinforcements - as was the remaining half of the 10th) covered itself with glory, and in spite of heavy losses won the Battle of Noreuil." This description was given in a brief Battalion history in 1935.

Now Noreuil action is largely forgotten, overshadowed by broad subsequent actions of the Great War, yet it was one of the most meaningful and costly actions for South Australian soldiers. Many former 10th Battalion men, after surviving Gallipoli and Pozieres, fell in the 50th Battalion assault at Noreuil. The 50th suffered 360 Casualties on 2 April 1917. Of the total 13th Brigade losses of 600 casualties from the 3 Battalions engaged, 60% casualties were suffered by the 50th Battalion alone, because it experienced the worst of the fighting. It is sad to think that even in great writings such as Les Carlyon's "The Great War" (863 pages) this heavy sacrifice was recorded by a short 6 line paragraph.

In late March 1917, the trench warfare stalemate briefly changed to a moving action for the Australians as the Germany Army, to straighten a salient (bulge) in its front lines and to gain an even higher battlefield position, moved back to occupy its new fortress, the Hindenburg Line, hotly pursued by elements of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Using its best troops, the Germans fought strong delaying, rearguard actions in 'outpost' villages to allow as much work as possible to be completed on the Hindenburg Line. Resistance was stiff.

The 13th Brigade, tasked to take the village of Noreuil, suffered losses of 600 casualties from the 3 Battalions engaged. But 60% of the casualties were suffered by just the 50th Battalion alone - it experienced the worst of the fighting.

100 years ago - April 2 1917 "brought both sorrow and pride to many homes in South Australia, On that day the 50th Battalion (a battalion formed from 500 men, being half from the original 10th Battalion soldiers of Gallipoli, then built to strength with new reinforcements - as was the remaining half of the 10th) covered itself with glory, and in spite of heavy losses won the Battle of Noreuil." This description was given in a brief Battalion history in 1935.



WO2 Andy Glover

It is with sadness we advise of the passing of a former member of the Regiment, in WO2 Andy Glover on 17th March 2017.

Major "Tex" Ranger (Retd) says "Andy was my first CSM when I was posted as OC to my first company. I'm not sure who was actually OC!" Tex continues "He was also a former Assault Pioneer Sergeant with 10 Bn."

WO2 Ian Carnachan (Retd) says "Andy was CSM of C Coy Iron Triangle, and a few of us remember him as being a good person. Thanks David for writing the "Vale" he was a good person who called a spade a bulldozer .

Lest we forget

Personally, Andy was my first CSM whilst I was in 10 RSAR Corps Training Wing in 1972 at Torrens Training Depot and I'm sure he is fondly remembered by others from that era.

I last saw Andy in 1995 at an Army Cadet Annual Camp at Port Augusta where he was a Cadet Unit Liaison Officer for the local Army Cadet Unit.

Farewell CSM. You Are Not Forgotten. Vale

Dear David,

I was the Adjutant of 27 RSAR July 1971 to March 1974 and Andy was the CSM C Coy based at Pt Pirie with depots at Pt Pirie, El Alamein and Whyalla. John Oswald was the OC and John Hagean the WO2 ARA cadre.

Andy was a very knowledgeable and professional soldier.

My fondest memory of Andy was the day we were firing 3.5 rocket launchers at Cultana. The 3.5s were about to be phased out and we had to get rid of the ammo; and there was lots. So after all of the diggers had shots, the two firing point safety officers; Andy and John started to do their duty and fire the ammo off. In the end the two buggers were using the 3.5s at max elevation (45 deg.) and using battery fire. Of course both were wearing combat jackets to stop the bits of wire of the rocket wounding their backs and after a while had sand bags on top of the combat jackets to lessen the penetration.

I might add that he was a bit naughty and used to horde ammo at the Pt Pirie depot. I remember once driving down the main street of Pirie in a short wheel base Landrover full of trip flares which I had found during one of my visits. The thing was that full that they kept falling out!!!

Then again we all cannot be perfect!!!

I will miss Andy sadly.

Kind regards,

Adrian Craig

Afternoon Dave,

My thanks for the information regarding Andy Glover's passing.

Andy was the Pioneer Sergeant at the time that I commanded Support Company and he was one of the great characters of the Battalion.

Highly professional, enthusiastic and eternally cheerful he served as Pioneer Sergeant with a number of Officers including Lts Rod Gaskin, Graham Ackland and Tex Ranger.

Following his relocation to live in Port Augusta, Andy was the cement that held the Iron Triangle lads together and in later days, he was quite harshly treated by the chair borne heroes at Keswick. At the time of my involvement with the Army Cadet units in South Australia, Andy was a willing volunteer to assist the Port Augusta Regional Cadet Unit as the Liaison Officer. His friendly and efficient approach was a great help in the running of the Cadets.

One of a kind, a committed Reservist to his boot straps. VALE

Don Hawking

Steve Norris on Facebook says.....Andy was my CSM and Mentor at Charlie Company for many years. He was firm but fair in his interactions with all ranks. As mentioned he had a wicked sense of humour and was always the practical joker. In later years we would bump into each other and have a chat. He will be missed by everyone. A Ragged Rat forever, (Battered but not Beaten)

Letters

From the Editor:

Just about every week I receive queries (like the one below) from people all over the world, asking for information about relatives who served with the Regiment, about ancestors with incomplete service records or just for us to complete a family military history. We are very happy to assist wherever we can, however, as in the military, we have a "chain of command" and a definitive process to achieve results of this type.

*Our official Association Historical Officer is **Des Hawkins**, and since coming on board in that role he has achieved some remarkable results for our members and readers. If anyone has a question of historical content, please direct your question to Des at his email address of desmondh@ozemail.com.au for the best possible results. Any queries we receive of an historical or ancestry nature directed to the RSAR Association will be passed on to Des. **Editor***

Hello David

I wonder if you or somebody in your association can help me with a problem I have with the formation of the South Australian Scottish Regiment in 1903. The information I have is that the 2nd Battalion Adelaide Rifles became the South Australian Infantry Regiment which I'm ok with, then I get a bit confused. I believe G Company became South Australian Scottish Infantry. H Company Scottish became G Company (Scottish) South Australian Infantry Regiment. If somebody could explain that to me I would be very appreciative. I'm just an amateur with an interest in the Australian Militia from Federation. I thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes

John Hills

Ph 0425 883 940

johnhills@iprimus.com.au

Our black and white photo a couple of issues ago has prompted member Chris Acton into allowing us a glance at the one photo in his possession that tells the story of his military "illustrious" military career. Chris has always been one to stand up for his mates, and his letter below attests that. I wonder if any of our members can name any of the other soldiers in the photo?

Editor

Hí David,

When I saw that picture in Sitrep that Don McCulloch submitted it jogged my memory to have a look for any old pictures I may have kept. Well back in the late 50s and 60s it didn't occur to any of us to really record to much unlike today when we are forever "snapping" at everything going on around us.

Anyhow I came across my one and only photo. It was taken at a recruit training camp conducted at Waitpinga in January 1967. It was a 16 day camp and at the time the 43 RSAR was the recruit training battalion for the command. The photo is of the winning platoon and I was the platoon sergeant. I don't think we actually had an officer operating as a platoon commander. I think there was a Captain Thelning who was the Company Commander.

One of the interesting things was that a number of the NCO instructors were from 3 RAR at Woodside. I had a bloke named Laurie Barber from 43 RSAR with me but there were 4 L/Corporals from 3RAR. They had recently returned from Vietnam and one Saturday night we had leave and went into Victor Harbor and spent a few hours there in the RSL. It was a big night and on the way back to find transport we ran into some local lads who made some pretty disparaging remarks to these veterans. Well a bit of a blue started so I joined in which I think saved me a lot of trouble as being the Sergeant I suppose I should have stood back, took names and dobbed everybody in. As I was guilty I figured I would have come off second best in that situation in more ways than one. No Names no pack drill.

I am not sure if anyone from the RSARA is in the photo apart from myself sitting with Laurie Barber on the right hand side of the picture.

Regards,

Chris Acton



(Continued from Page 1) by Michael Von Berg MC OAM

Driving from Melbourne some time ago I listened to an ABC Radio program about the contribution indigenous Australians have made to Australia's defence forces. I was aware that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers had fought in every war since European settlement, but had not considered that they also fought in the Boer War (1899-1902).

Considering the Commonwealth Electoral Act was only amended in 1962 to allow Aboriginal people the right to vote, and that they were not permitted on licensed premises until 1966-67, we need to consider what was driving these proud Australians to fight and die for a country that didn't properly recognise their citizenship.

When you're driving for some 8 hours there is plenty of time to reflect on such matters and hearing the program led me to think of all the indigenous soldiers I had the pleasure of serving with during my time in the Australian Army. The more I thought about the various individuals and their characteristics and foibles, the more I realised that I have always looked at these blokes as soldiers first, and at their indigenous background second, if indeed at all. I remember so many, and in every instance recall that not only were they good blokes, but bloody good soldiers.

Ray Orchard, who sadly passed away in 2013 - section commander in C Coy 5RAR first tour - was an exceptional soldier and one of the nicest blokes you could ever meet. "Darky" Wright a Corporal in 1RAR first tour - was as tough as teak and a damn fine rugby half. Zeke Mundine, a wonderful NCO and one of the real characters of 5RAR, though badly wounded in Vietnam during his second tour of duty, continued to serve in the Battalion as a CQMS. More importantly in his rugby days he used the "goose step" well before Campese, and had the crowd on the sideline in hysterics.

Lance Corporal Billy Rhodes, a West Australian who went to Vietnam with 1RAR on their first tour of duty, always had a twinkle in his eye and really enjoyed a good laugh. Corporal Ron Harris ex 1RAR and then SASR, was a fine SAS trooper who was killed in Vietnam.

There's Stuey Yow Yeh, originally 1RAR who served in Vietnam on their first tour, and who later served with 8RAR on their first tour of Vietnam. When on the rugby pitch, as a winger, this mountain of a man frightened the daylight out of his own players, as much as he did the opposition. The Yow Yeh's are a well-respected Kanaka family hailing from Rockhampton. I had the pleasure of playing rugby with all of them, and not only were they good players, but good team men as well.

Massa Clarke - an absolute legend who has fought in every war since World War 2 was a professional Lance Corporal Ex 1RAR who served in Vietnam with 7PI, C Coy, 7RAR and where on Operation Coburg, as a great natural tracker, found the enemy (and many of them) in what was to be one of 7RARs major battles.

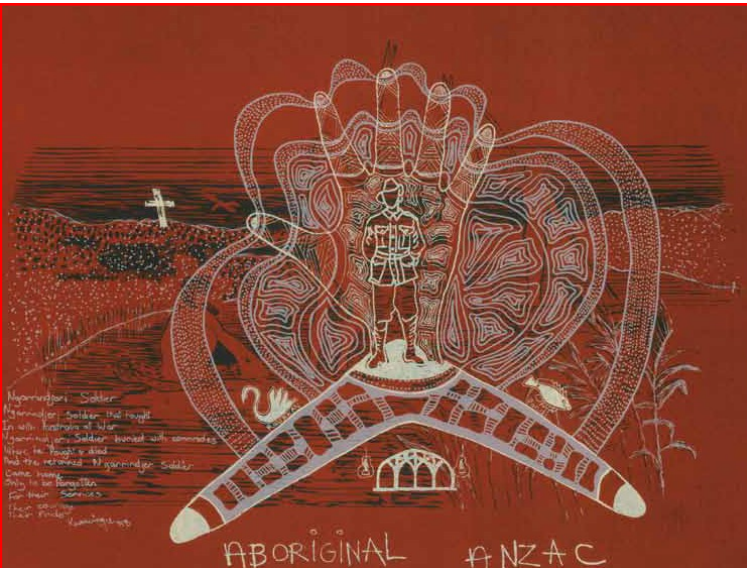
Norm Womal MID - a great section commander and leader who was mortally wounded in the Nui Thi Vai Mountains in October 1966, was one of nature's gentlemen. Had he lived and gone on with his Army career, he could have achieved anything. I will never forget that fateful day and the effect it had on the entire Battalion, and on me in particular - as Norm was one of my NCO's.

I am sure there are many of us who share the same values, beliefs and experiences. It's quite telling when something as innocuous as a radio program can set you up to recall some of the individuals you have served with as being indigenous first and soldier second - and yet when you served it was very much the other way around. I am just waiting for some self-righteous individual, with no idea of what we went through together, to suggest that the basis of this missive is somewhat racist when it's quite obviously the opposite. What these people don't get is that all soldiers are colour blind! You don't look for colour. You just look for that mate to protect your back or to get you out when you're in a bit of a tight spot. Within a military fighting environment the only colour is that of your Battalion Colours and your lanyard and the respect for all beside you who wear it.

As we move through the many and varied commemorations and projects of the Anzac Centenary it is appropriate to support the Register of Aboriginal Veterans South Australia (RAVSA) Committee, which is seeking to have the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Memorial at Torrens Parade Ground recognised as a National Memorial. South Australia can be proud of the fact that it is the first dedicated memorial to these brave men and women who fought for this nation in difficult circumstances, both pre and post-Vietnam.

(Continued from Page 9) Society as a whole owes an enormous debt to the many thousands of indigenous soldiers who fought and died for their country in the past. I am immensely proud in my own small way to have served with some of the greatest soldiers and individuals I have been privileged enough to come to know, and I encourage us all to stop and consider the incredible contribution that has been made by our indigenous brothers and sisters against the odds.

Michael Von Berg MC OAM



FORGOTTEN HEROES: HONOURING THE SERVICE & SACRIFICE OF ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

I was sitting in my seat on the plane just thinking about home and why I had to leave home. Yet I was very glad I had joined the Army because my grandfather was in the First World War. My two uncles Reg and Tom were in the Second World War and Tom was in Korea and Malaya as well and I thought I might as well join the Army too. And now I was in 5RAR on my way to Vietnam.
Frank Clarke, Vietnam Veteran

I was standing in line in my socks and jocks along with the other National Servicemen who had been called up into the Australian Army waiting for my medical at Murray Bridge. When it was my turn Dr Heddle said, "Do you want to go any further?" I asked, "What do you mean?" He replied, "You are Aboriginal. I can exempt you and you can go home." I said, "The marble didn't differentiate, so I will keep going."
Les Kropinyeri, Vietnam Veteran

In the Army in Vietnam we were all part of the green machine. Some of us were light green and some of us were dark green.
Gil Green, Vietnam Veteran

As Aboriginal Veterans we are proud of our military service in Vietnam. The good mates we met were like family, we stuck together and we still do today. Vietnam was a different sort of war. It was a fight to stay alive and come home and at the time our efforts and sacrifices were not appreciated by many Australians when we came home. War should never be glorified. Yet the sacrifices and achievements of those who participated must never be forgotten. We owe it to our fellow veterans to keep the memory of their service alive. We congratulate Reconciliation South Australia on the publication of this booklet which will encourage a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contributions, achievements and sacrifices in the Australian Armed Services and those who supported our country on the home front.
Frank Clarke, Vietnam Veteran

Frank Clarke 5RAR Vietnam, 12 May 1966 to 12 May 1967

Les Kropinyeri 9RAR Vietnam, 13 November 1968 to 17 March 1969

Gil Green 7RAR Vietnam, 16 February 1970 to 17 December 1970

(from member Chris Acton)

1. Fanta was invented in Germany when the war made it difficult to bring in Coca-Cola syrup from the US.
2. The SS officer who captured Anne FRANK and her family bought her book to see if he was mentioned. He wasn't.
3. Russia and Japan still haven't signed a peace treaty to end WWII due to a dispute over sovereignty of the Kuril Islands.
4. The lift cables of the Eiffel Tower were cut by the French when Germany occupied France in 1940. As a result German soldiers had to climb to the top to fly the swastika flag.
5. The last Japanese soldier to surrender did so in 1974, 29 years after WWII was over.
6. A radio belonging to a British POW was hidden so well that when the soldier visited the camp 62 years later he found it right where he left it.
7. Leonard DAWE, a crossword compiler for the Telegraph, used D-Day operation code names as the answers to his puzzle a month before D-Day. MI5 interrogated him only to discover that it was a random coincidence.
8. HNLMS Abraham Crijnsen was a Dutch warship covered with tree branches to disguise it as a tropical island.
9. Two doctors in Poland discovered that the Nazis would not deport anyone to a concentration camp who tested positive for typhus in fear that the disease would spread. The two injected Jews and non-Jews in their city with a vaccine containing dead Epidemic Typhus that would test positive but have no adverse effects, saving approximately 8,000 lives.
10. Queen Elizabeth II joined the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service and was trained as a driver and mechanic.
11. Canada declared war on Japan before the US did after the attack on Pearl Harbor.
12. Juan Pujol GARCIA was a double agent who was awarded both the German Iron Cross and the Member of the British Empire award.
13. After the Treaty of Versailles, Ferdinand FOCH said "This is not peace. It is an armistice for 20 years." 20 years later WWII broke out.
14. The Taj Mahal was covered with a scaffold to camouflage it as a stockpile of bamboo and misguide bombers.
15. The Mosque of Paris gave sanctuary to Jews by giving them Muslim IDs and hiding them in their underground caverns.
16. Royal Air Force Sergeant Nicholas ALKEMADE fell 18,000 feet without a parachute and survived with only a sprained leg.
17. There's a Twitter account that narrates WWII as it happened on this day and time in 1944 onwards.
18. To prevent the Germans from finding out that the British had radar on board aircraft, the British started a rumour that their pilots had excellent night vision from eating lots of carrots. This rumour has continued to today as many people think carrots improve eyesight.
19. The President of Czechoslovakia, Emil HACHA, suffered a heart attack upon hearing of Hitler's plan to bomb the capital.
20. 80% of all Soviet males born in 1923 died in World War II.
21. Due to a metal shortage during the war, Oscar statuettes were made of painted plaster.
22. Approximately 5,500 leftover bombs are discovered and defused in Germany every year.
23. World War II cost each person in the US \$20,388.
24. Hitler's nephew, William Patrick HITLER, fought for the US Navy against his uncle.
25. Winston CHURCHILL lost the 1945 election just two months after winning the war.
26. HITLER ordered the collection of 200,000 Jewish artifacts to be displayed at the end of the war in a trophy case called The Museum of an Extinct Race.

Now Noreuil action is largely forgotten, overshadowed by broad subsequent actions of the Great War, yet it was one of the most meaningful and costly actions for South Australian soldiers. Many former 10th Battalion men, after surviving Gallipoli and Pozieres, fell in the 50th Battalion assault at Noreuil. The 50th suffered 360 Casualties on 2 April 1917. Of the total 13th Brigade losses of 600 casualties from the 3 Battalions engaged, 60% casualties were suffered by the 50th Battalion alone, because it experienced the worst of the fighting. It is sad to think that even in great writings such as Les Carlyon's "The Great War" (863 The Village was extensively mined, contained numerous dugouts, and strong machine-gun posts hidden in sunken roads, an extensive belt of wire, which could not be seen from our ridge, protecting the reverse slope in front. Snipers were well-positioned, and at the time we attacked the Germans were about to be relieved, so we had double the quantity of foes that we had expected.



The Battle for Noreuil 2 April 1917

For the 50th Battalion, the operation began during the night of 1–2 April, when they lay out in the fields on either side of the D5, the road which today still runs between Lagnicourt and Noreuil. Private Gilbert Jacob recalled how they waited for the dawn and the action to begin:

... the ground was frozen on the surface, and the scanty grass was covered thick with hoar frost ... it was a fine night with only a gentle breeze. I watched the red moon set. It sank slowly among a few thin clouds, then, for only a little while, the night was darkest before the dawn ... there was a strange stillness now – a hush in the darkness.

Left: Corporal Jorgen Christian Jensen, 50th Battalion (South Australia), who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Noreuil on 2 April 1917.

At 5.15 am three companies of the 50th Battalion advanced down the hill towards Noreuil in the direction of Noreuil Australian Cemetery. The covering artillery barrage had little effect on German positions in and around the village and enemy machine-guns caused many casualties. On the Lagnicourt–Noreuil road a particular enemy position was causing all sorts of problems, when it was attacked alone by Danish-born Private Jorgen Jensen, with hand grenades. One of Jensen's platoon shot the enemy machine-gunner while Jensen charged forward, flinging two grenades into the German post. He then took out two more, pulled the pin out of one of them with his teeth and, holding them aloft, called out in German for the Germans to surrender as they were surrounded by Australians. They believed him and gave themselves up. Jensen was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The 50th Battalion reached Noreuil. Here they were to pivot right and advance through the village, taking out the remaining enemy and make for their objective, a roadway about a kilometre to the east. They were then to form a line with the 51st Battalion, which had attacked to the north of Noreuil. Numbers of 'moppers up' would be left in the village to deal with any pockets of German resistance still holding out. Things went wrong. Emerging from Noreuil, unsubdued enemy machine-guns opened fire on Captain David Todd's right flank company, with terrible results. The South Australians were forced to ground. Behind them the 'moppers up' found there were not enough of them for the task; they were gradually eliminated and the remaining few were captured.

Two companies on the left flank, under Captains Harold Armitage and James Churchill-Smith, reached a trench close to the objective east of Noreuil and joined up with the 51st Battalion. However, from there they could see a gap in the line to their right where Captain Todd's men had been shot to ground as they moved out of Noreuil. One of them, Sergeant William James, tried to hold back Germans advancing towards them out of the village with his Lewis machine-gun, but it was a suicidal gesture and he fell back mortally wounded, calling out 'Look after me'. Many of Todd's company were killed or captured. At this point, Captain Armitage, who had led from the front all morning, was hit and killed.... shot through the head whilst looking over the top of the trench to see what had become of the companies in the valley. His last words were 'watch the right flank'...

Later on 2 April 1917, the earlier perilous position of the 50th Battalion was rectified when reinforcements appeared and plugged the gap in the line. The Germans were not committed to holding on to Noreuil and were withdrawing. The 50th Battalion's casualties for the day were significant: 100 killed or died of wounds, 169 wounded and 91 missing. Of the missing, an estimated 29 had been killed and 62 taken prisoner. All up, the battalion took 360 casualties and did not participate in the upcoming attacks at Bullecourt.

MEMBERS

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Abareh, Wadi | SM |
| Abel, Colin | |
| Acton, Chris | |
| Adams, Aaron | SM |
| Apostolides, Chris | |
| Attenborough, Geoff | |
| Ayles, Jeff | |
| Baldwin, Bob | |
| Bampton, Michael | BAND |
| Barnaart, Philip | |
| Bates, Allan | |
| Beames, Rod | CoM |
| Beckett, David | LM SM |
| Bennet, Graham | |
| Benveniste, Sam | SM |
| Bilsborow, Jason | SM |
| Blackmore, William | |
| Blake, Sam | SM |
| Blondell, Mark | SM CoM |
| Bloomfield, Max | |
| Bourne, Ian | SM |
| Boath, Ian | |
| Boothroyd, Lincoln | SM |
| Boscence, Bob | |
| Bras, Riley | SM |
| Broadbent, Robert | SM |
| Brookes, Phil | |
| Brown, Bruce | |
| Brown, Harry | |
| Burnard, Trent | SM CO |
| Burton, Ray | |
| Buttars, Erik | |
| Campbell, Wenona | BAND |
| 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 | |
| Dew, Trevor | |
| Domanski, Glenn | |
| Dubsky, Eddie | |
| Dunn, Peter | |
| Dunn, Bob | |
| Dunn, Jeff | |
| Durdin, Russell | |
| Durrant, Chris | |
| Edson, Roger | |
| Elliott, Graham | |
| Elliss, Scott | SM |

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|---------------------|--------|
| Eva, Keith | |
| Ewens, Mimi | SM |
| Ferguson, Shane | BAND |
| Field, Don | |
| Flanagan, Ted | |
| Fortune, Nigel | BAND |
| Gaborit, Lyndon | LM |
| Gallagher, Erin | BAND |
| Genovese, John | |
| Gibson, Lindsay | |
| Giles, John | |
| Gill, Graham | |
| Gilmore, Graham | |
| Goodwin, Graham | SM |
| Gordon, Frank | |
| Hardy, Robert | SM |
| Harley, Peter | |
| Harrington, Malcolm | |
| Harrison, John | |
| Hawking, Don | |
| Hawkins, Des | |
| Heath, Jonathon | BAND |
| Haynes, Malcolm | SM 2IC |
| Haynes, Scott | |
| Hewitt, Emily | BAND |
| Hogan, Mark | LM |
| Hook, Alan | LM CoM |
| Hope, David | CoM |
| Horseman, Ian | LM |
| Hudson, Mick | |
| Hudson, Rick | |
| Humphrys, Jesse | SM CoM |
| James, Grant | SM |
| Jeffrey, Scott | SM |
| Johnson, Barry | LM |
| Jolly, David | |
| Jones, Brett | |
| #Justin, Trent | |
| Keenan, Alan | |
| Kilford, Brian | |
| Klopf, Alex | LM |
| Klopf, Paul | |
| Koop, Joshua | BAND |
| Laing, David | LM CoM |
| Lakin, Bruce | LM |
| Lampard, Ross | |
| Lee, Bob | |
| Lee, Pat | |
| Lloyd, Elmer | |
| Longstaff, Paul | |
| Loveder, Peter | |
| Main, Brian | |
| Marcus, Ray | |
| Marlin, Robin | LM |
| 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 | |

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|-----------------------|----------|
| Mitchell, David | |
| Morony, Frank | |
| Moore, Jeffrey | |
| Moore, Terry | LM |
| Moschis, James | SM |
| Munro, Ron | |
| Oliver, Peter | |
| Orrock, Alan | |
| Ockenden, Marc | |
| Oswald, John | |
| Pach, Chol | SM |
| Paul, John | |
| Perkins, Bob | |
| Pollard, Barry | |
| Portakiewicz, Anthony | BAND |
| Portakiewicz, David | BAND CoM |
| Phillips, Colin | |
| Phillips, Trevor | |
| Payne, Bob | |
| Parslow, Howard | |
| Parsonage, James | |
| Preece, Brian | |
| Rado, Stephen | |
| Ranger, Denis | |
| Rathmann, John | |
| Rathmann, Norm | CoM |
| Rijken, Paul | |
| Ramm, Hank | |
| Robertson, Jim | |
| Rorie, Graham | SM |
| Rossetti, Lee | |
| Sage, Andrew | |
| Salamon, Peter | |
| Sanders, Ashley | SM |
| Sanderson, Max | |
| Sands, Mike | |
| Sexton, Mark | SM |
| Slater, Ian | |
| Slattery, Kimberly | BAND |
| Sniedze, Julie | BAND |
| Sprigg, Rob | |
| Staker, Cameron | SM |
| Standing, Michael | CoM |
| Stone, Eddie | |
| Strain, Doug | |
| Steer, Phil | |
| Stewart, Rob | LM |
| Stewien, Peter | LM |
| Stuart, Matthew | SM |
| Tiller, Garth | |
| Thomson, Jim | |
| Tolotta, Tarrant | SM |
| Tompkins, Ian | |
| 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 |

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|-------------------|----|
| Wilson, Graham | LM |
| Wilson, Neil | |
| Wood, George | |
| Woore, Phillip | |
| Yorke-Simpkin Reg | LM |
| Zuromski, Paul | SM |

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Abel, Karen
Ayles, Denise
Beames, Cheryl
Carnachan, Dom
Dart, Caroline
Demosani, Gail
Elliott, Julie
Eva, Gail
Field, Shirley
Gatley, Graeme
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
Parkin, Audrey
Phillips, Heather
Sanderson, Lorraine
Tregenza, Lyn
Winger, Kathleen

HONORARY MEMBERS

T. Burnard CO 10/27 RSAR
J. Moulton ADJT 10/27 RSAR
B. Lipman RSM 10/27 RSAR

LM denotes **LIFE MEMBER**
SM denotes **SERVING ADF MEMBER**
BAND denotes serving 10/27
Band member
Denotes **NEW MEMBER**

225 members

as at 1/4/17

Our newest member is
Trent Justin, a Serving
Member on the Inactive
List.

Please welcome Trent to
the Association. He is our
225th member.



Robert "Dogs" Kearney

The **Mystery of Celtic Wood** refers to the apparent disappearance without trace of 71 men of the 10th Battalion of the 1st Australian Division during a diversionary attack on German positions in Celtic Wood, near Passchendaele in West Flanders, during the Battle of Poelcappelle (9 October 1917) in the First World War.

Official Army reports of the action state that investigations have failed to account for the fate of 37 men of the 10th Battalion. German records contain no mention of the attack, which led to speculation that the men were massacred and buried in a mass grave. Visitors to the site today are still given this explanation by guides. Rumours persist that the men had simply walked into a mist and disappeared. Some investigators attribute the lack of record of the missing to confusion, mis-reporting and clerical error.

Adelaide authors Robert Kearney and Chris Henschke - both veterans of their own wars - have rifled through the sepia pages of war diaries and action reports to piece together the real story of Celtic Wood. What emerges is not a mystery; just a plain old, garden variety Australian war tragedy.

A story of brave men sacrificed to divert attention from the main British attack. A feint, just like Gallipoli's murderous charge at The Nek as depicted in Peter Weir's film, or the butchery at Fromelles.

Robert "Dogs" Kearney will talk at the next RSARA luncheon about his and Chris Henschke's research on the lost soldiers of Celtic Wood. Delving into the many myths and rumours, they expel them and lay to rest the mystery surrounding the missing Diggers.

Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc Luncheon

When: Sunday 25th June 2017
Timings: Midday to 1500 hrs
Where: Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Road
Luncheon: \$16.80 per head (payable on the day)

Bookings Essential through Norm Tregenza on normlyn@bigpond.com or 0412 804 779

You don't have to be a member to attend, but you DO need to reserve your seats