



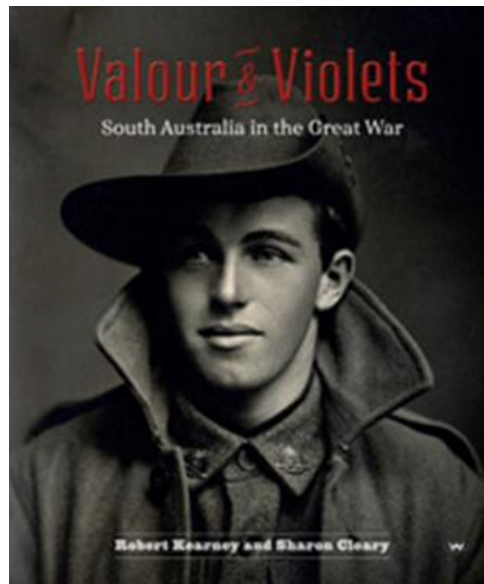
**"Sitrep, Over!"**

## Valour and Violets - South Australia in the Great War

APRIL 2018

**"Sitrep, Over!"**

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC



Members will remember Bob Kearney's great presentation at the Hackney Hotel on the Lost Soldiers of Celtic Wood. Bob and fellow author Sharon Cleary have followed that up with a brilliant journal called "Valour and Violets - South Australia in the Great War."

I was lucky enough to be given a new copy of the book by Rob Manton, Director of Veterans SA, when we were attending the memorial dedication of William Westury's headstone in Pinnaroo. My copy is for the collection of the Murray Bridge RSL Museum.

Close to 35,000 South Australians enlisted for service overseas during the Great War.

Around 5500 never came back. Countless more returned with physical and psychological

injuries that would affect them for the rest of their lives.

*Valour and Violets* brings together for the first time the stories of the campaigns and battles in which South Australians served, set against the backdrop of the South Australian home front. Here are the stories of Frederick Prentice, the first of three Indigenous South Australians to be awarded the Military Medal; Thomas Baker, the gunner who became an ace pilot; and Sister Margaret Graham, awarded the Royal Red Cross for her contribution to army nursing. Here too are lesser known stories, such as that of Alexandrina Seager, who formed the Cheer-Up Society back home and worked every single day during the war, despite losing her youngest son at Gallipoli. Or Clara Weaver of Rosewater, who not only lost five sons to the war but also her husband, George, who died at home before the war ended.

Drawing on the work of the many who have written on the subject previously, *Valour and Violets* provides a wholly South Australian perspective on the impact of the Great War on individuals, on families and on our state's coastal, regional, and outback communities.

### Praise for *Valour and Violets*:

'This beautifully presented, easy to read and highly informative book should take pride of place in anyone's library.' - Nic Klaassen, *Flinders Ranges Research*

*Valour and Violets* is published by Wakefield Press and is available at all good book shops.

### Inside this issue:

Inside Story	2
Rifle Company Butterworth - Pre-deployment	3
Inside Story	2
Inside Story	3
Inside Story	4
Inside Story	5
Inside Story	6

### Special points of interest:

- Rifle Company Butterworth has been in existence since 1973 to help Malaysia fight the Communist Insurgency. 32 personnel from 10/27 Bn have just returned from a deployment to RCB. Read their story on Page 3

# Training for Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB)

*Rifle Company Butterworth is an Australian Army infantry company based at RMAF Base Butterworth in Butterworth, Penang, Malaysia. Rifle Company Butterworth was established in 1973 to provide a protective and quick-reaction force for RAAF Base Butterworth during a resurgence of the Communist insurgency in Malaysia. While RAAF Base Butterworth was handed to the Royal Malaysian Air Force in 1988 and the insurgency officially ended in 1989, Rifle Company Butterworth has been maintained as a means of providing Australian soldiers with training in jungle warfare and cross-training with the Malaysian Army. The company is staffed on a rotational basis, with both Regular and Reserve personnel being deployed quarterly. 30 members of 1027 Battalion have returned to Australia after a 3 month rotation. Here's the story of their training prior to deployment.*

“One Platoon...ATTEN...SHUN!”

An amplified thud echoes from the parade ground as 25 boots stamp the ground in unison. These are the words of command that Corporal Baulch, SGT 1 PL, uses to bring call-sign 11 to attention to call the roll every morning.

The time is 0730; PT is only 15 minutes away.

This is how 1 PL starts each and every working day.

Over the past three weeks the soldiers have been physically conditioning themselves through PT sessions, sessions that build up in intensity and duration until we depart for Butterworth.

These hit outs have been comprised of strength and endurance bodyweight circuits, alternated with sessions to enhance battle fitness.

During this three-week force concentration period, 1 PL has been shaping its identity, its culture, and its way of doing business. Call sign 11 has been forming.

There is a battle on two fronts. Whilst making sure we are as prepared as possible for the Certification Exercise an administration war rages in the background.

A high performance team is one which is well administered, and well administered we are. This allows the PL to put effort and resources into refining our standard operating procedures.

Utilising the Weapons Training Simulation System, soldiers are given the opportunity to re-familiarise themselves with the key weapon systems they will be using for the three month deployment.

Fast forward to Monday.

Its 0440 hrs and the soldiers are formed up in marching order ready for the field exercise. Six days of live fire and blank fire activities to certify the Company for deployment.

The certification exercise consists of live fire shoots with the F88 service rifle and F89 Light Support Weapon from a range of different firing positions and engaging targets at different distances. We then progressed to the field component of the exercise.

The first few days focused on basic soldier skills and Section level ambushing and patrolling. As the week progressed, the platoon started consolidating the foundation warfighting skills.

The weather was unseasonably wet and cold made conditions challenging, giving the Platoon a taste of what we are most likely to encounter in the jungle environment, except colder.

While these group evaluations were occurring, individual soldier skills were being evaluated and honed to ensure every member of the PL is the standard required for deployment to Butterworth.

The Platoon has seized opportunities, uncovered the challenges and set their individual and team goals. It feels like the call sign has formed.

“One Platoon...STAND AT...EASE”.

Lieutenant *Darrian Williams*

Platoon Commander, 1 Platoon  
RCB 120

*Today there is only one Army.  
Reservists train alongside  
Regulars, and if need be they  
fight alongside each other.*

We shall endeavor to publish some details of RCB's experiences.

# Letters to the Editor

Hi David,

I have just received the last newsletter. I have been away in our RV and in fact heading off again this week for the rest of March. I always support the luncheons when I am home and was sorry to read about the numbers or lack thereof at the last function. I am not surprised that you had to cancel it. I am not sure how you stimulate more interest as I think the idea is pretty sound and the guest speakers are always interesting. I guess it's a case of just plugging away at it but I am sure it can be disheartening for you and the others who organise the function.

Many thanks for the work you put into the association.

Regards,

*Chris Acton*

.....and again

Thanks David,

It would be interesting to find out how many of us "older" members are grey nomads. If there was a special interest group like grey nomads could we use them as a reason to increase the numbers at the luncheons?

*Chris*



Good Afternoon David

Have received some information and a few photo's of Presentation of Colours at Adelaide Oval, 8th March 1964.

Details from Max Sanderson and some photo's from Barry Pollard and others have been very helpful.

Have also received an email from Jim [Thomo] Thomson. He seemed to think I was not around anymore! [been a long time between drinks].

David, it is greatly appreciated that you included the request in "Sitrep, Over!" it has brought back memories, like my Platoon Commander attacking a rather large ant hill on all fours trying to find his tent at Cultana after our platoon nearly swiped the Pope Trophy. He had more than the ration allowance that night, [we all did] will not mention his name, but number 4 in the association membership list. Hope to catch up on Anzac Day.

Thank You

Regards

*David Thomas*



Hi Dave,

Just a few lines on my thoughts for the dinners.

Have you thought about having a guest speaker at every other dinner or even every third one as some people as myself would like to just have dinner and mix socially at times, which is hard to do when there is a speaker as time becomes a factor.

I hope this helps in some way as I know the frustration you go through when arranging things and people do not attend. I know I have not attended many due to circumstances out of my control but Margaret and I hope to in the future.

*Barry Johnson*



# CPL Dave's Page

A man asks a farmer near a field, "Sorry sir, would you mind if I crossed your field instead of going around it? You see, I have to catch the 4:23 train."

The farmer says, "Sure, go right ahead. And if my bull sees you, you'll even catch the 4:11 train."

*"Anton, do you think I'm a bad mother?"*

*"My name is Paul."*

Mother: "How was school today, Patrick?"

Patrick: "It was really great mum! Today we made explosives!"

Mother: "Ooh, they do very fancy stuff with you these days. And what will you do at school tomorrow?"

Patrick: "What school?"



**"What else did you fix today?"**



**"Can you hold on a sec? I think my wife's trying to get my attention."**

A man met a beautiful blonde lady and after a short courtship asked her to marry him. She said, 'But we don't know anything about each other.'

He said, 'That's all right, we'll learn about each other as we go along.'

So she consented, they were married, and off they went on a honeymoon at a resort.

One morning they were lying by the pool, when he got up off of his towel, climbed up to the 10 metre board and did a two and a half tuck, followed by three rotations in the pike position, at which point he straightened out and cut the water like a knife.

After a few more demonstrations, he came back and lay down on the towel.

She said, 'That was incredible!'

He said, 'I used to be an Olympic diving champion.'

You see, I told you we'd learn more about each other as we went along.'

So she got up, jumped in the pool and started doing laps.

After seventy-five laps she climbed out of the pool, lay down on her towel and was hardly out of breath

He said, 'That was incredible! Were you an Olympic endurance swimmer?'

'No,' she said, 'I was a prostitute in Mildura, but I worked both sides of the Murray!!!'

**ROYAL SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION INC**

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

[davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com)  
**0407 791 822**

**FIND US  
ON  
FACEBOOK**

**We're on the Web**  
**[www.rsara.asn.au](http://www.rsara.asn.au)**

## Notice to UNFINANCIAL Members

Hullo to all you lucky people who receive this newsletter every month without being a Financial member. Excluding those who receive the email as a matter of courtesy from one ex services organization to another, and a number of other interested parties.

For those of you who have Day, we bid a warm, but

I know it costs nothing to world, but it's reserved us "Perpetuate the Regi- fees of a paltry \$20. If you the association but still newsletter, please contact the numbers of two of our Padres. They will be more lenient than me, and may actually offer you some kind words of support.



not paid your fees by ANZAC inevitable farewell.

send this newsletter out to the primarily for those who help ment" by paying their yearly don't want to be a member of wish to receive this FREE me and I can provide you with

Thanks to all of you who have continued to support our Association over the years since it was reborn in 2007– 2008, and thank you to those who continue to assist us at the various events on behalf of the Regiment. Your help is not only selfless, it is very much appreciated.

To the rest of you, the first thing you will know is there will no longer be an interesting, full colour newsletter in your INBOX every month. You will just fade into eternity and no longer have contact with this wonderful group of people who really are making a difference. Thanks for the memories. ...

Editor/Secretary.

## ANZAC Day 2018

As this edition goes to print we are still waiting on confirmation from the ANZAC Day Committee as to the exact location of our Forming Op Point (FUP) for the march on 25th April.

As we have done for the past 10 years, we will use our "nouse" and form up on Grenfell St near the corner of Light Square. We will probably be in Group 12 again, so will probably be in the vicinity of the RACT, SAMR Association, and SIGNALS Corps groups.

As usual, if you could make your way to the FUP by 10 am, you can chat with the other guys until such time as we step off. Once again we will be lead by our erstwhile leader Rodney Beames, and we will all be entitled to a beer by the time we meet up at the Torrens Training Depot.

If you served with the Regiment at anytime, you are entitled to march with the RSAR Association. You don't have to be a member to march with us.

Just look for our banner and join us to commemorate those who served before us.





# The History of the Royal South Australia Regiment Part 3

## COLONIAL FORCES AND A NEW FEDERATION

### South Australian Militia

There has been a strong military history within South Australia with many early leading figures came from military backgrounds such as Colonel William Light who had fought with Wellington in the Peninsula Campaign and the explorers Sturt, Barker and Warburton who were serving or retired officers.

The Colony of South Australia was proclaimed by Governor Hindmarsh on 28 December 1836 with Adelaide planned and sited with defence in mind. As a colony of free citizens without the security threat of a convict population, a strong British military presence was not required with only a Royal Marine detachment of HMS Buffalo established to provide initial security until withdrawn in July 1838. The Royal Marines had created an unpopular reputation due to drunkenness and negligence of duty and when they departed to help establish the short-lived settlement at Port Essington, in what is now the Northern Territory, the local population was relieved.

The first volunteers in the State to fill this void were raised by Governor Gawler in February 1840 to be known as the Royal South Australian Volunteer Forces to comprise of a Troop of Lancers or Light Dragoons and some Light Infantry. The Infantry numbers enrolling grew to become a Company however, no drills (parades) were held after June 1840 and, although it was disbanded in 1851; for the final six years of its existence it had been a force that had existed on paper only.

In October 1841, a detachment of 85 men from the 96th Regiment (Manchester) arrived from Hobart, to take up duty in the State, which was the start of an association with what was to become the Kings Regiment and is now The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border). A succession of company-sized detachments from a number of regiments then rotated through the colony until 1870, occupying barracks in successively Grenfell, Hinders and Topham Streets and the building now known as the Police Barracks behind the Adelaide Museum.



*South Australian Volunteer Forces in 1860*

The Crimean War (1853 – 1854), and the associated fears of attack by Russian warships, led to the passing of the Militia Act No. 2 of 1854 authorized the formation of a Volunteer Military Force in South Australia.

## If you've heard these before, sorry! Here they are again!!

On the way from the court to the prison, the horse-drawn dray, carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "ONE LAST DRINK".

If he said YES, it was referred to as ONE FOR THE ROAD. If he declined, that Prisoner was ON THE WAGON.

So there you go ...

More history.....

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were "piss poor".

But, worse than that were the really poor folk, who couldn't even afford to buy a pot, they "Didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.....

### **Here are some facts about England in the 1500s:**

Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June!!

However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water.

The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water,

then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it!

Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath.

It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof.

When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection.

That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing.

As the winter wore on they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance. Hence: a thresh hold. (Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over they would hang up their bacon, to show off.

It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around talking and "chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes.

So for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, The family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky.

The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up.

Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake".

And that's the truth!!

## History.....continued

The General order published in the South Australian Government gazette dated 4 November 1854 authorised the raising of two infantry battalions being the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Adelaide Rifles to consist of a Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding, six Captains, Lieutenants and Ensigns, with six Companies each of 50 - 60 men, with three Sergeants and Corporals. The men between 16 and 46 years of age received 36 days training returning to their civilian jobs until needed. The First Battalion mustered on 11 November 1854 at 5 p.m. and the Second Battalion a week later also at 5 p.m. and the Battalions paraded by Companies located at ( First Battalion), at North Adelaide, Norwood and South Adelaide, (Second Battalion), at Glenelg, Hindmarsh, Mitcham and Port Adelaide. By the 2 August 1855 both Battalions had completed their authorized 36 days training and were ordered not to assemble again until further notice being disbanded shortly after the Crimean War when on 9 February 1856 the volunteers were ordered to 'return weapons into store'.

A Volunteer Force was again reformed in 1859 under a renewal of interest soon numbering 14 companies and a year later 45 with 70 officers and 1929 other ranks. With changes to the Act in 1860 the volunteer companies were grouped and on 26 March 1860 the Adelaide Regiment of Volunteer Rifles were formed under the command of The Honourable Travis Boyle Finnis who had previously raised and commanded the Light Infantry Company in 1840. The returns for 19 December 1860 showed the Adelaide Regiment of one Battalion with a total 669 all ranks, with the following Rifle companies: Port Rifles, First Adelaide Rifles, Glen Osmond & Mitcham Rifles, Glenelg Rifles, The Adelaide Rifles, Munno Para East Rifles, West Adelaide Rifles, Sturt & Brighton Rifles, First Gawler Rifles, The Gawler Volunteers, Salisbury Rifles, Eastern Suburban Rifles, Smithfield Rifles and Number 1 Brighton Rifles.



Militia at Mount Gambier

*Continues next month*