



“Sitrep, Over!”



APRIL 2014



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Newsletter Edited by David Laing

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Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc (Metro)

An Experience of War

Major Geoff Jones

Part 2



Geoff Jones in his final days of training at Kapooka

12 weeks recruit training passed in a blur of exhausting days, physical pain, selective bastardry and the learning of new skills. I somehow survived.

But that was soon behind me and without a backward glance I bolted for Wagga Railway Station to board a train for Melbourne and the School of Army Health at Healesville where I would be trained as a medic.

Medical Assistant training in those days was in three parts commencing with a six-week course comprised of first aid; nursing procedures; medical documentation and preventive medicine. This was followed by six months on-the-job training before returning to the School for a further six weeks.

I have clear memories of first aid scenarios, stretcher carrying, field training, practicing ward routine, bed making and constructing improvised field hygiene appliances. I was greatly interested in first aid and field activities and I excelled in these areas. As for nursing, I didn't extend myself. I thought the Nursing Officers were too much like my mother and my sisters, all of whom were nurses and who seemed always to be telling me what to do. It wasn't until later in my service that I saw at first hand the vital caring role that medics played in nursing sick and injured soldiers. But, for my part I only wanted to be a field medic.

The NCO instructors took great care to set up realistic first aid scenarios and just before lunch or knock off time was the time they most favoured. The simulations were mostly battlefield scenarios but would occasionally be road traffic crashes or snake bite or the like. Frequently, they involved punishing stretcher carries over obstacles and long distances.

Importantly, emphasis was also given to infantry minor tactics, navigation and weapon handling. These core skills for surviving and winning on the battlefield are integral to the completeness of a medic's training.

While the instructors were hard working and well intentioned I have observed with the benefit of hindsight that the training regime had three glaring omissions. Firstly, that almost all first aid scenarios involved single casualties and secondly, they occurred only in daylight and third, no one ever died. We were not exposed to managing mass casualties, or to treating injuries by feel and touch in blackout conditions and, I cannot recall ever being told that despite my best efforts some of my casualties would die. It would not be long before I learned these lessons the hard way.

As a brand new medic I was posted to the 3rd Casualty Clearing Station at Wacol, Queensland where the pedestrian routine was not entirely to my liking. I seemed only to be filling in time on work details and the nearest thing to excitement was in dodging and hiding from the supervising NCOs. I found a way out of my misery when a vacancy arose at 2 RAR, then at Enoggera, a Brisbane suburb. This exciting new posting gave me my grounding as a practicing medic and in the next several months I learned much from the RMO and the senior medics with whom I worked.

Continued next month

Due to overwhelming response, the April Fools Joke this year was published in March 😊

DID YOU KNOW?

Some descendants of wartime foes can march on Anzac Day, the Victorian RSL has ruled for the first time.

But the ruling applies only to descendants of World War I Turkish soldiers, because they were "a very honorable" enemy, according to the Victorian RSL president, Major-General David McLachlan. (2006)

The endorsement does not extend to families of German, Japanese, Italian or North Vietnamese. "I could never ever see, in Victoria, Japanese veterans of the Second World War marching in an Anzac Day march," Major-General McLachlan said. "They were a dreaded enemy that was despised by the Australian veterans."

Much had been done to establish friendships with Japan, he said, but the Pacific conflict was "a very black mark" against the Japanese. "The Germans were the same, but I don't think the Germans would ever want to march," he said. "And the Italians that fought with Axis forces certainly shouldn't be marching." In defiance of RSL policy, Turkish-Australians whose fathers and grandfathers fought at Gallipoli have been marching in the Melbourne parade since 1996.

The AGE 2006

"Sitrep, Over!"

It isn't just in Australia and New Zealand that ANZAC Day is commemorated.

Thousands of Australians and New Zealanders are expected to gather in London at a dawn service on Hyde Park Corner, on Friday morning (25 April), to commemorate ANZAC Day. Former Australian High Commissioner John



Australian dignitaries at the 2012 ANZAC Day service in London

Dauth said: "It is a day for honouring not only those that fought and fell at Gallipoli but all Australians and New Zealanders that have served their country."

New Zealand High Commissioner Derek Leask said: "Anzac day is a day for reflection and remembrance. It is a sombre occasion where we honour and remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom."

The Australian Minister for Resources and Energy and Minister for Tourism will be attending the dawn service and will lay a wreath.

Anzac Day commemorations have been taking place in different forms in London since 1916. In the continuing spirit of Anzac, the dawn service is held on alternating years at each country's memorial, located diagonally opposite each other at Hyde Park Corner, with wreath-laying each year at both.

Anzac Day commemorations in London include the dawn service at Hyde Park Corner; a wreath-laying parade and ceremony at the Cenotaph on Whitehall; and a Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey.

ANZAC DAY 2014 in ENGLAND

Australians, New Zealanders and friends are warmly invited to attend these events.

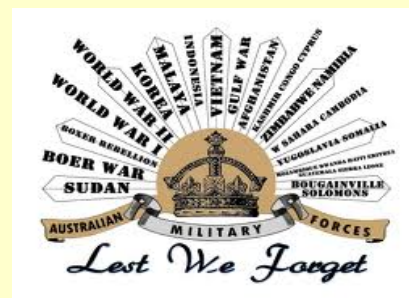


Australian High Commissioner John Dauth from 2008 to 2013

"Even though the battle at Gallipoli was nearly a century ago, the significance of what they did there does not diminish with time. Although there are no longer any men or women alive who were there that day, it seems to me that with every passing year the significance of Anzac Day grows. Many young people, including many Australians living here in the UK, are now making an April pilgrimage to the Gallipoli site and observing a Dawn Service with thousands of their compatriots to pay respect to the original diggers and acknowledge the continuing commitment and sacrifice of Australian men and women.

The importance of Anzac Day will not diminish, in part, because we have had so many diggers that have served proudly in uniform since then and of course continue to serve around the world. Although we may have friendly rivalries on the sporting fields with our Kiwi neighbours, it's a timely reminder too, of our common bonds and shared histories.

So, on Friday 25th April, let us reflect upon the service of the diggers and express in any way we can how grateful we are to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Whether it is attending a Dawn Service here in the UK or going to Gallipoli itself, let us remember them."

John Dauth High Commissioner 2008—2013

Just Soldiers

Lance Corporal Vernon Warner

Lucky to be alive

The soldier contemplated the empty sleeve of his pyjama coat then turned his attention to the damaged bible he held in his hand. He stared long and hard at the bullet that lay embedded in the pages of the book as he came to grips with how close he had been to death. To the sound of military music echoing between the buildings, the troops filed down Sydney's George Street, their bearing ramrod straight, yet with a relaxed swagger that had become so characteristic of the Australian soldier. As the ranks of the 4th Battalion came into view, Enid Warner struggled to see through the cheering crowd standing shoulder to shoulder on both sides of the street. She was desperate to catch a last glimpse of her husband, Vernon.

Clutching her tiny Australian flag, she jostled her way to the front of the throng of well-wishers where finally she caught sight of her soldier. 'Vern! Vern!' she shouted, trying to make herself heard above the noise of the band and the excited crowd. As he looked her way, he responded to her calls with a broad smile, a cheeky wink and an acknowledging nod of his head. Then all too soon, he disappeared amid the moving sea of khaki-clad figures. Vernon Warner was born in Queensland on 31 December 1890.

His family moved to Sydney when he was still in his infancy and took up residence in the northern suburb of Artarmon. He was educated at North Sydney Boys' High School where he received an early introduction to military life. When compulsory military training was introduced for all Australian boys, he chose to be a naval cadet. Vernon was a bright lad, and, on leaving school, continued further education as an apprentice engineer. On the outbreak of the First World War, Warner was among the early volunteers.

After preliminary training in Australia as a member of the 4th Battalion AIF, he boarded a ship bound for Egypt on 19 October 1914 and disembarked several weeks later. For the next few months, under the clear, hot desert skies, the battalion undertook additional training. In April 1915, Vernon and the other troops of the 1st Division AIF packed the last of their equipment as they anxiously waited for their orders to move and confirmation of their destination. They were tanned, fit and eager to face whatever the enemy had in store for them. Unfortunately for Warner, his hopes of moving with the Division were dashed when he became ill and was sent to hospital for treatment.

From his bed, he heard news of the landings at Gallipoli and the heavy toll of casualty suffered by the ANZAC forces. Warner felt helpless and frustrated that he was not with his mates and he pestered the doctors constantly to rule him fit for duty. Lance Corporal Warner finally landed at ANZAC Cove on 5 May 1915 and carefully made his way over the rugged terrain to the 4th Battalion's lines.² As he passed a group of entrenched Diggers an old mate extended his hand to him, remarking, 'You look a helluva lot better than the last time I saw you'. Before long, the Allies were bogged down in a war of attrition, resorting to any ploy that might give them an advantage over the enemy Turks.

The Diggers of the 4th Battalion, like their ANZAC mates, were endlessly engaged in the tactics of trench warfare, sniping and bombing, but primarily, fighting their hardest just to stay alive. In August 1915, a plan was devised by the British High Command to land British troops at Suvla Bay. To cover the landings, the strategy included a series of diversions to be undertaken by the ANZACs—the Kiwis would attack the heights of Chunuk Bair, the Australian Light Horse would charge at The Nek and the infantry would launch an assault at a place called Lone Pine.



LCPL Vernon Walker

Final Part Next Month

By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, Just Soldiers, ADCC Publications, Brisbane, pg 223 to 226



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

G'day David,

I've just got back from a great week in Saigon, Vietnam and read your newsletter; always of interest. I was particularly interested in the Geoff Jones article *An Experience of War*, it's a great story. I know Geoff quite well; he is still very active in the 6RAR Association and in both civilian and ex-army medical corps circles. He is one of those unassuming yet articulate blokes who should have won a medal in Vietnam.

You also mentioned the Anzac Centenary celebrations next year. As you know, I'm leading a group of 34 to the Somme and Normandy in April/May 2015 and attending the Anzac Day ceremony at Villers - Bretonneux. I will certainly be representing the *Fighting 10th* throughout the tour with both myself and our accompanying military historian highlighting the exploits in France/Belgium of the 10th Bn. Must get the regimental tie before the big day.

Regards

Phil Brookes

Runcorn QLD

NOTE: The RSAR Association has sent a Regimental Tie to Phil for being an "interstate and overseas ambassador." Geoff Jones story "An Experience of War" continues in the next 9 issues of this newsletter.

In the RAP



Anyone who has marched with the RSAR Association on ANZAC Day in the past 10 or so years will know member **Brian Kilford** from Mannum. Brian makes the long trek from Mannum to Adelaide each year to march with us, and on most occasions carries the Association banner.

I received a phone Call from Brian the other day advising me he was confined to a hospital bed at Mannum Hospital after "breaking a few bones" a couple of weeks ago. After trying to



vault a fence, Brian realised he wasn't as young as he used to be, resulting in some nasty leg fractures. He has spent 2 weeks in the RAH and was recently transferred back to Mannum Hospital to complete his rehabilitation. He has apolo-

gised in advance for not being able to make this years ANZAC Day march, but I think on behalf of all members, we can issue Brian a Leave Pass for this occasion.

Anyone wishing to contact Brian for a chat can do so by phoning the Mannum Hospital on (08) 8569 0200.

Get well soon Brian, and we'll see you NEXT year!

BLUEY & CURLEY

by Alex Gurney

PROPERLY COOKED!



從編輯器的話

Chinese Proverb

In a flood of words, surely some are mistakes



“Sitrep, Over!”

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Secretary David Laing
RSAR Association
Riverglen Marina RSD 3152A
Murray Bridge SA 5253

Phone 0407 791 822
davidlaing49@bigpond.com



Find us on

FACEBOOK

ANZAC DAY 2014

The RSAR Association will form up in Group 12 on Grenfell St at approximately 1000 hrs on ANZAC Day 25th April. All RSARA members and soldiers from 10/27 RSAR and affiliated units are invited to join together for this Commemorative March.

All members are asked to adhere to the minimum Dress Standards as laid down by the Committee Of Management:-

- Suit, Blazer or Jacket
- Regimental Tie
- Beret with RSAR badge or Hat
- Shoes (No joggers)
- Medals as awarded on Left Breast
- NOK Medals on Right Breast

All inquiries to the Secretary/Editor David Laing on email of davidlaing49@bigpond.com or 0407 791 822

The MAY 2014 newsletter will contain photos of the march.

www.rsara.asn.au

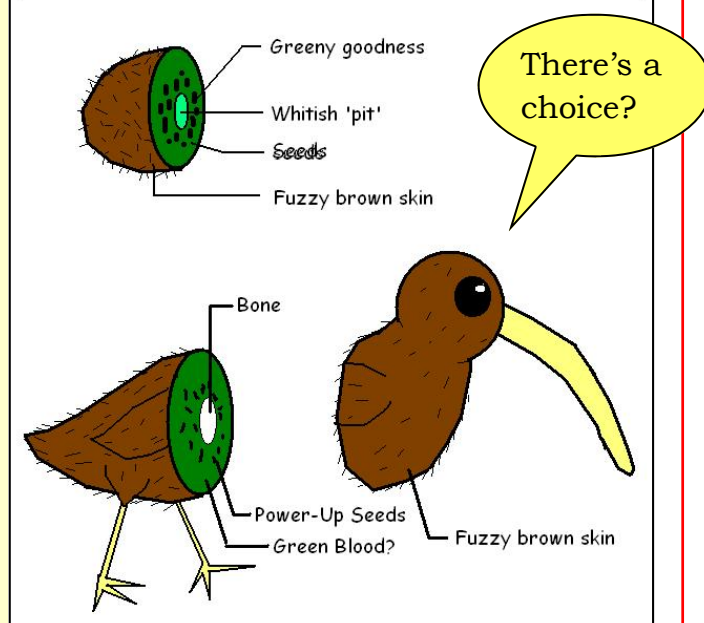
How to speak KIWI

Say out loud for full effect!

Jumbo - pet name for someone called Jim
Jungle Bills - Christmas carol
Inner me - enemy
Guess - vapour
Fush - marine creatures
Fitter cheney - type of pasta
Ever cardeau - avocado
Fear hear - blonde
Ear - mix of nitrogen and oxygen
Ear roebucks - exercise at the gym
Duffy cult - not easy
Amejen - visualise
Chuck - attractive young girl
Day old chuck - very young poultry
Bug hut - popular recording
Bun button - been bitten by insect
Beard - a place to sleep
Sucks Peck - Half a dozen beers
Ear New Zulland - an extinct airline

Put Too

Kiwis VS Kiwi Birds



More next month



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"Sitrep, Over!"**MEMBERS**

Abareh, Wadi	SM
Acton, Chris	
Adams, Aaron	SM
Apostolides, Chris	
Attenborough, Geoff	
Ayles, Jeff	
Baldwin, Bob	
Barrass, Mark	
Bates, Allan	
Beames, Rod	CoM
Bennet, Graham	
Bilsborow, Jason	SM
Blake, Sam	SM
Blondell, Mark	SM
Bourne, Ian	SM
Boath, Ian	
Boothroyd, Lincoln	SM
Boscence, Bob	
Bras, Riley	SM
Broadbent, Robert	SM
Brookes, Phil	
Brown, Bruce	
Brown, Harry	
Burton, Ray	
Carnachan, Ian	
Chittleborough, Jeff	
Clyne, Lachlan	SM
Cooke, Nat	CoM
Contibas, Nikolaus	SM
Cotton, Bob	
Cram, Kevin	
Dart, John	
Davey, John	
Davey, Trevor	
Davey, Jack	
Del Vecchio, Victor	
Demasi, Nathan	SM
Demosani, Tony	
Dubsky, Eddie	
Dunn, Peter	
Dunn, Bob	
Dunn, Jeff	
Durbin, Russell	
Durrant, Chris	
Edson, Roger	
Elliott, Graham	
Elliss, Scott	SM
Eva, Keith	
Ewens, Mimi	SM
Field, Don	
Flanagan, Ted	
Friday, Ross	
Gaborit, Lyndon	
Genovese, John	
Gibson, Lindsay	
Giles, John	

Gill, Alan	
Gilmore, Graham	CoM
Gordon, Frank	
Hardy, Robert	SM
Harrington, Malcolm	
Harrison, John	
Hawking, Don	
Hawkins, Des	
Hogan, Mark	LM
Hook, Alan	LM
Hope, David	
Hudson, Rick	
Humphrys, Jesse	SM
James, Grant	SM CoM
Jeffrey, Scott	SM
Johnson, Barry	LM
Jolly, David	
Jones, Brett	
Keenan, Alan	
Kilford, Brian	
Klopf, Alex	LM CoM
Klopf, Paul	
Laing, David	LM CoM
Loveder, Peter	
Lockett, John	
Lampard, Ross	
Lee, Bob	
Lee, Pat	
Longstaff, Paul	
Main, Brian	
Marcus, Ray	
Martin, Bob	
Matchett, Bill	
Mau, Mark	
McCulloch, Don	
McLachlan, Joshua	SM
McMahon, Tyler	SM
McMullin, Jim	
Meissner, Terry	SM
Milde, Peter	SM
Mitchell, Barry	
Mitchell, David	
Morony, Frank	CoM
Moore, Jeffrey	
Moore, Terry	LM
Moschis, James	SM
Munro, Ron	
Oliver, Peter	
Orrock, Alan	CoM
Ockenden, Marc	
Oswald, John	
Pach, Chol	SM
Paul, John	
Perkins, Bob	
Pollard, Barry	
Phillips, Don	
Phillips, Trevor	
Payne, Bob	
Parslow, Howard	
Preece, Brian	
Ranger, Denis	
Rathmann, John	

Rathmann, Norm	CoM
Ramm, Hank	
Robertson, Jim	
Rorie, Graham	SM
Rossetti, Lee	
Sage, Andrew	
Salamon, Peter	
Sanders, Ashley	SM
Sanderson, Max	
Sands, Mike	
Sexton, Mark	SM
Sprigg, Rob	
Staker, Cameron	SM
Standing, Michael	
Stone, Eddie	
Strain, Doug	
Steer, Phil	
Stewart, Rob	
Stuart, Matthew	SM
Tiller, Garth	
Thomson, Jim	
Tolotta, Tarrant	SM
Tregenza, Norm	CoM
Trezise, George	
Ullrich, Andreas	SM
Vella, Joe	
Wake, Stephen	
Waters, Ian	LM
Weightman, Aidan	SM
Westover, Rhys	
Wheeler, Chris	
Williams, Darrian	SM
Wilson, Graham	LM
Wilson, Neil	
Wood, George	
Woore, Phillip	
Yorke-Simpkin Reg	LM
Zuromski, Paul	SM

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ayles, Denise	
Beames, Cheryl	
Beames, Taryn	
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	
Main, Raelene	
Marcus, Yvonne	
McCullagh, Anne	

Mitchell, Roma
Phillips, Heather
Sanderson, Lorraine
Tregenza, Lyn

LM denotes **LIFE MEMBER**
SM denotes **SERVING ADF MEMBER**

Denotes **NEW MEMBER**

181 members as at 17/02/14

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone who has served within the Royal South Australia Regiment or its affiliated units and corps, and who can identify with the Goals of the Association.

FEES**Full Member**

\$20 per year.

Associate Member

\$10 per year.

Serving ADF Member

\$0 for the first year, and \$10 per year whilst still serving.

Fees are payable on or after the AGM in August each year, OR at the time of joining, THEN on the AGM each year.

Fees can be paid by posting a cheque or Money Order to:-

*The Secretary, David Laing
RSAR Association Inc
Riverglen Marina, RSD 3152A
Murray Bridge SA 5253*

Make the cheque or Money Order out to the "Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc" or the "RSAR Association Inc"

Payment may be made by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to:-

BSB 015 211
Account 482 441 406

In the name of **Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.**

Please remember to include an identifier such as your surname, so the payment can be matched to you.



The COLOURS



Private Gomad reckons.....

" A moth-eaten rag on a worm-eaten pole ,
It does not look likely to stir a man's soul , Tis the
deeds that were done Neath the moth-eaten rag,
When the pole was a staff, and the rag was a flag "

Sent in by Ian Carnachan

DON'T LIKE THE MINIMUM WAGE???

If you've got minimum skills, minimum education, show
minimum motivation and provide a minimum
contribution to the workplace, why the hell should
someone be forced to pay you more??

GETTING OLD???

I just took a
leaflet out of my mailbox,
informing me that I can
have sex at 68.
I'm so happy, because I live at
number 72.
So it's not too far to walk home
afterwards.
And it's the same side of the street.
I don't even have
to cross the road!

I was always taught to respect my elders,
but it keeps getting harder to find one.

The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough
to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use
mine.

Blessed are those who can give without remembering
and take without forgetting.

Answering machine message,
"I am not available right now, but thank you for
caring enough to call. I am making some changes in
my life.
Please leave a message after the beep, and
if I do not return your call, you are one of the
changes."

*Me doctor said I should cut down on drink-
ing so much beer, and when I told me old
mate Knuckles, here's what he said to me
about drinking beer.*

"Well ya see, Norm, it's like this. A herd of
cattle can only move as fast as the slowest
cow. And when the herd is hunted by din-
goes, it is the slowest and weakest ones at
the back that are killed first. This natural
selection is good for the herd as a whole,
because the general speed and health of the
whole group keeps improving by the regular
killing of the weakest members. In much the
same way, the human brain can only operate
as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive
intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain
cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and
weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular
consumption of beer eliminates the weaker
brain cells, making the brain a faster and
more efficient machine. That's why you al-
ways feel smarter after a few beers."

Catchya next month.....

PS. WARNING: The consumption of
alcohol may make you think you are
whispering when you are not .

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