



**“Sitrep, Over!”**

**MAY 2018**

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

## ANZAC DAY 2018



ANZAC Day Adelaide. Unfurling the Banner, and catching up with old mates.



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### Special points of interest:

- **ANZAC DAY HIGHLIGHTS**
- *If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter by email, on your keyboard is a button with “DELETE”. Press it !*
- *New Regimental Shields now available. See Page 9*

# **43 Bn RSAR Are You in This Picture?**



Member Ian Waters was going through "some old stuff" when he came across this photo. He thinks it is of himself (he doesn't say which one) and a number of mates during the 43 RSAR days. If you're in the photo, or recognise anyone who is, we'd love to hear about it.

**Didgeridoo**  
**\$40**  
**Needs work.**





# **THE CORPORAL** From the SAMRA newsletter.

## **The Corporal**

For good reason, it is an accepted fact that NCOs constitute the backbone of the Australian army. Among their ranks are the overworked, often neglected but reliable dedicated Corporals who wear one or two stripes. Their duties and responsibilities are far from easy.

As junior leaders they too are called upon to make quick critical life and death decisions in the fog of war, particularly when the plan goes wrong or the unexpected occurs. In such circumstances they are often without support and direction. In simple when in such isolation there is no time to seek guidance thus there is a need to decide, instinctively, and act then and there. They're on the edge between life and death which includes those they command. The success or failure of that quick decision when confronting the unexpected could well determine the outcome of the overall battle at hand.

The Corporal, be it man or woman at the sharp end of war is far distant from those who determine strategy and direction and yet it is the corporal and his or hers troops who more often than not, fire the first shots.

It follows that such Corporals and the troops they command with very few exceptions are the furthest from the Generals and at the far end of supply lines. Thus it is not surprising that there may be times when even basic every day needs are in short supply.

Given the chain of command where Corporals are at the far end from where ever those orders filter down from, they have the least time to prepare to comply and of course even more vulnerable to sudden changes of plan. Thus the time frame between receipt of orders and execution can be dangerously short. Clearly such circumstances require a sharp mind, sound battle procedure and team work. Mind you, there are no excuses such as “we didn't have adequate warning time.” or “insufficient resources.”

Thus it is evident the Corporal is burdened with immense responsibilities and may indeed have within his grasp the outcome of an operation if not expectation from seniors for the junior NCO to achieve the impossible or create miracles.

They're expected to maintain the highest standards of discipline within their small band and yet live and sleep with them, share rations, water, gauge their physical mental stamina and demand more of them and often push them to the very limit of endurance.

To add to the list, in dangerous circumstances they may have to order soldiers in their command, face to face, to carry out immediate tasks where injury and death are most likely to occur.

No matter where or when, they are both mother and father to those they command embracing both welfare and discipline. They welcome inexperienced young commissioned officers to the fold, obey them, offer advice and are very much an influence in how well that young officer develops.

If their seniors become casualties, they are expected to take command then and there, often in the heat of battle and get on with the task.

Like all good leaders, when confronting danger, exposed to cruel weather, hungry, tired, exhausted and fear of the unknown, there must always be that smile, never a frown and always going forward. Despite such physical and mental demands they are in main, professional dedicated warriors who lead by example. They are indeed very much the pulse beat of the NCO Corp which in turn is the backbone of any Army.

I have been honoured to have known and served among them in peace and war. The least I can do is to put pen to paper to recognise them in a small way. I do hope my words are sufficiently adequate to express in a small way the Corporals lot in life. God bless them

**George (Warrie) Mansford (BRIG Retd) , June 2015**  
**Submitted by David Mercer Editor/Secretary SAMRA**

## ANZAC DAY 2018



After 52 years E Company  
Alberton Depot Member,  
David Thomas from Casino  
NSW caught up with,  
from the left

Barry Johnson, D.T. Jim  
Thomson, Ian Carnachan, at  
TTD after Anzac Day March.



At the Murray Bridge Dawn Service, younger veterans pay their respects. Left is Selina Laing from Adelaide who served in Lebanon and Afghanistan and at right is Tony Gibson from Jervois who also deployed to Afghanistan.



# CPL Dave's Page

A man walked out to the street and caught a taxi just going by. He got into the taxi, and said, "Perfect timing. You're just like Andrew"

Cabbie: "Who?"

Passenger: "Andrew Sullivan. He's a guy who did everything right all the time. Like you're coming along when I needed a cab, things happen like that to Andrew Sullivan, every single time."

Cabbie: "There are always a few clouds over everybody."

Passenger: "Not Andrew Sullivan. He was a terrific athlete. He could have won the Grand Slam at tennis. He could golf with the pros. He sang like an opera baritone and danced like a Broadway star and you should have heard him play the piano. He was an amazing guy."

Cabbie: "Sounds like he was something really special."

Passenger: "There's more. He had a memory like a computer. He remembered everybody's birthday. He knew all about wine, which foods to order and which fork to eat them with. He could fix anything. Not like me. I change a fuse, and the whole street blacks out. But Andrew Sullivan, he could do everything right."

Cabbie: "Wow. Some guy then."

Passenger: "He always knew the quickest way to go in traffic and avoid traffic jams. Not like me, I always seem to get stuck in them. But Andrew, he never made a mistake, and he really knew how to treat a woman and make her feel good. He would never answer her back even if she was in the wrong; and his clothing was always immaculate, shoes highly polished too. He was the perfect man! He never made a mistake. No one could ever measure up to Andrew Sullivan."

Cabbie: "An amazing fellow. How did you meet him?"

Passenger: "Well, I never actually met Andrew. He died. I'm married to his bloody widow!"



## She said I could!

The wife said" here's £20, get the dog a warm jacket, if there's any money left' get yourself a beer.



## 'OLD' IS WHEN...

Your sweetie says, 'Let's go upstairs and make love,' and you answer, 'Pick one; I can't do both!'

## 'OLD' IS WHEN...

Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.

## 'OLD' IS WHEN...

A sexy babe catches your fancy and your pacemaker opens the garage door,



"I've crunched the numbers in your retirement account. It's time to figure out who will be wearing the mask and who will be driving the getaway car."



**ROYAL SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION INC**

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**FACEBOOK**

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

RSARA & RSL Member David Laing  
conducts the Dawn Service at Murray  
Bridge where an estimated 3,000 locals  
paid their respects.



## The History of the Royal South Australia Regiment Part 3

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.

In 1860 Britain politely declined the replacement of Imperial troops for the defence of the colonies as “foreign aggression and conflagration” did not warrant it; the impetus was now on the states to more effectively organise their defence. In 1861 the South Australian Free Rifles was raised and organised as skirmishers with a strength of 42 providing their own weapons and equipment; hence the name 'Free Rifles' as it cost the Government nothing to establish and maintain. In 1865 South Australia introduced a system of partial payment to volunteers followed by the other states and the subsequent introduction of the *Volunteer Act (1865)* which divided all military forces into active and reserve forces.

Training of the Active Volunteer Force was 36 days in each year. The Reserve Force trained a minimum of 6 days and a maximum of 12 days a year. Rates of pay varied from 15 shillings per day for a Lieutenant Colonel to 5 shillings for a drummer. Arms equipment and uniforms were provided by the Government but horses had to be supplied by the member.

Due to organisational difficulties and lack of equipment, the Adelaide Regiment of Volunteer Rifles was again disbanded in early 1866, to be reformed again in May 1866 this time with a company of expatriate Scottish immigrants forming The Scottish Company. At this time the headquarters was located in a building on North Terrace where the Museum now stands, until it was moved in 1899 to a new shed in the vicinity of the present Torrens Drill Hall. Following a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1867 there was a short-lived change of name to the 'Prince Alfred Rifle Volunteers' with the Scottish Company assuming the name of 'The Duke of Edinburghs Own' on 18 November 1867. This period of volunteer service was to be short lived as waned with the Militia in South Australia being more a 'paper force' than an effective force ceasing to exist in 1871.

The outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War in France on 19 July 1870, led the South Australian Governor, Sir James Fergusson, to conduct a review of the colony's defences. He determined to re-organise the force into two battalions of 500–600 men, two artillery batteries, and four troops of cavalry. Some politicians felt it would help alleviate the high unemployment the colony was suffering at the time, but the majority felt the enormous cost outweighed the potential benefits. The proposals received little backing from the colonial parliament, and were rejected by newly re-elected Premier John Hart; again the issue of funding stood in the way of South Australia having an efficient and ready regular military force.

The state government had been quite unstable for the first five years of the 1870s, but settled in 1875, allowing for more stable planning where the issue of military expansion was again raised. With the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish War (1877–78) the per-



Australian and British officers in Sudan  
during the Boer War



## History.....continued

ceived placed politicians under pressure from the press and campaign groups to expand the defensive capacity of the colony.

In May 1877, the South Australian Volunteer Military Forces was reformed consisting primarily of 10 companies of the Adelaide Rifles. The success of raising those units did not stop the political arguments between Governor Sir William Jervois and Premier John Colton which temporarily suspending further development.

Despite all of the political setbacks, the Adelaide Rifles had soon grown to 21 companies, and on 4 July 1877 a second battalion was formed comprising companies from Mount Gambier, Unley, and Port Pirie together with the Duke of Edinburgh's Own of Prince Alfred Rifle Volunteers. Training intensified briefly for the duration of the Russo-Turkish War, and then resumed at normal levels, with the 2nd Battalion being amalgamated with the 1st Battalion.

In 1878 the Rifle Clubs first formed and continued under the Secretary for Defence as a reserve to the militia, along with cadets who were in training and the following year, in 1879, following the British defeat by the Zulus at Isandlwana, with South Australia offering to send a contingent of troops to aid the British response; this offer was rejected. By 1885, the second infantry battalion was again reformed (the Rifle Clubs having been an interim); consisting of the same companies as previously and in 1889 a third battalion of infantry was raised, although it was short lived and was disbanded in 1895 with its compliment absorbed into the remaining two battalions.

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On 3 October 1899, South Australia was able to offer Britain a contingent for the South African (Boer) War. This was the first of nine contingents, comprising of six officers and 121 other ranks of South Australian Infantry, embarking on 26 November 1899 under command of Major F.H. Howland. Although initially planned that the company would be attached to a British battalion, it was decided on arrival in Cape Town, that all of the Australian Infantry contingents would be grouped to form a battalion to be known as the Australia Regiment.

While the initial phase of the war had demanded conventional infantry, by the time the Australian colonial contingents arrived, the nature of the war had changed, making mounted infantry more appropriate. In consequence, after only one month as an infantry battalion, the Australian Regiment demonstrated its flexibility and converted in a fortnight to a mounted infantry role serving with distinction alongside the other Australian Mounted Infantry regiments as the 1st South Australian Mounted Rifles. It was for this conflict the award of South Australia's first battle honour 'South Africa'.



*Three officers of the Scottish Company wearing full dress uniform*

*Continued next month*



## **New RSAR Shields available**

Just arrived Are these fantastic Regimental Shields manufactured by the Murraylands Men's Shed. There's room under the crest to put an engraved plaque if required, or just hang them in you den or man cave to remember the time you spent with the RSAR.

Costing only \$30 plus postage of around \$8. Order from the Secretary in the first instance. (They have enough room on the base for a small engraved plaque, indicating your service etc.)

We're also waiting on a new issue of polo tops which have been ordered and should be in stock soon.





## **ANZAC DAY 2018**



**OUR BATTALION. ANZACS ONE AND ALL.**



10/27 Battalion RSAR marches past the “10/27 Home Tree” created by Lou Burnard and others as a viewing point on King William Street to wave the troops on. Well done!



## **ANZAC DAY 2018**



Thanks to Tex Ranger for these pics. He says the crowd at the corner of King William and North Terrace, on the downhill run was the largest he's seen in over 35 years. An indication that the event is becoming more popular with the community as they pay their respects to all those who have served. One disappointment noted was the lack of a Two Up game at Torrens Training Depot. Our own Jeff Ayles has conducted this service at TTD for over 40 years, but now he needs someone to “pick up the pennies” run the Two Up. It will be bought up at the next RSL Regional Coordinators Conference, and we'll see how the RSL responds.



## RSAR Association - Financial Members as at April 17, 2018

Honorary Members		Members (ctd.)		Life Members		
Wilson	Neil	Munro	Ron	Acton	Chris	
Lipman	Ben	Parslow	Howard	Beckett	David	
Members		Parsonage	James	Blackmore	Bill	
		Paul	John	Bourne	Colin	
	Abareh	Wadi	Payne	Bob	Brookes	Philip
	Abel	Colin	Perkins	Bob	Burnard	Trent
	Attenborough	Geoff	Pexton	Timothy	Davey	Trevor
	Ayles	Jeff	Phillips	Colin Rex	Gaborit	Lyndon
	Baldwin	Robert	Pollard	Barry	Hawking	Don
	Barnaart	Philip	Portakiewicz	David	Haynes	Malcolm
	Bates	Allan	Preece	Brian	Hogan	Mark
	Beames	Rodney	Rado	Stephen	Hook	Alan
Benveniste	Sam	Ramm	Hank	Hope	David	
Blake	Sam	Ranger	Denis	Horseman	Ian	
Blondell	Mark	Rathmann	Norm	Johnson	Barry	
Boath	Ian	Rathmann	John	Klopf	Alex	
Brophy	Ryan	Rijken	Paul	Laing	David	
Brown	Bruce	Robertson	James	Lakin	Bruce	
Burton	Ray	Rossetti	Lee	Marlin	Robin	
Buttars	Erik	Rushton	Benjamin	Moore	Terry	
Carnachan	Ian	Russack	Jonathon	Ockenden	Marc	
Chittleborough	Jeff	Sage	Andrew	Phillips	Trevor	
Cooke	Nat	Sanders	Ashley	Stewart	Robin	
Cotton	Bob	Sanderson	Max	Stewien	Peter	
Cram	Kevin	Standing	Michael	Waters	Ian	
Dew	Trevor	Schoeman	Johannes	Westover	Rhys	
Dunn	Peter	Scott	Rhys	Wilson	Graham	
Dunn	Bob	Scown	Neville	Yorke-Simpkin	Reg	
Eckard	Andries	Thomas	David			
Edson	Roger	Thomson	Jim	Associate Life Members		
Elliott	Graham	Tregenza	Norm	Phillips	Heather	
Eva	Keith	Trezise	George			
Faquiri	Reshad	Vella	Joe	Associate Members		
Faunt	Joshua	Weightman	Aidan	Abel	Karen	
Field	Don	Wheeler	Chris	Ayles	Denise	
Gatley	Graham	ex 10th Inf Bn Members		Beames	Cheryl	
Gibson	Lindsay			Carnachan	Dom	
Gill	Graham			Elliott	Julie	
Gilmour	Graham			Field	Shirley	
Goodwin	Graham			Hook	Philippa	
Goodwin	Graham			Hook	Philippa	
Gordon	Frank			Hudson	Margaret	
Harrington	Malcolm			Johnson	Margaret	
Harrison	John			Laing	June	
Hawkins	Des			Lee	Ann	
Haynes	Malcolm	Main	Raelene			
Hudson	Rick	Sanderson	Lorraine			
Jeffrey	Scott	Tregenza	Lyn			
Johnston	Robert	Winger	Kathleen			
Justin	Trent					
Lee	Pat					
Loveder	Peter					
Main	Brian	Honorary Members 2				
Martin	Bob	Life Members 28				
Martin	Cameron	Associate Life Members 1				
Matchett	Bill	Members 86				
McCulloch	Don	Prepaid Members		Serving Members 17		
Mitchell	Barry	2018/19		Associate Members 15		
Morony	Frank	2019/20				
		2021/22				
				Total financial members 149		