



“Sitrep, Over!”



**MAY 2014
ANZAC DAY
SPECIAL EDITION**



Points of interest

- All the photos of ANZAC Day 2014. 40 members of the RSARA & soldiers from 10/27 Bn marched side by side at the Adelaide march.
- 10/27 BN Band to feature at a Big Band style Cabaret. Page 10
- Early Warning for 2014 Christmas BBQ. See details on Page 8

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Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

An Experience of War

by Major Geoff Jones

Part 3

In 1965, Australia committed a Battalion Group to the Vietnam War. The army was expanding, conscription was introduced and 2 RAR was split to allow the raising of the 6th Battalion to which I voluntarily transferred as a founding member.

It was at about this time when in two separate incidents I came to the notice of my Company Commander. The first was on a training exercise when a soldier broke his finger and the prospect of evacuating him would cause some logistic inconvenience. With necessity being the mother of invention I had the brainwave of constructing a splint from a ration tin using surgical scissors as tin snips. In the event, it proved to be a perfectly adequate splint and the soldier remained in the field. From that moment my capabilities as a medic were established for all to see. But my real test was soon to come.

While inspecting a weapons display at Enoggera during the lunch break, two soldiers were blown up by a claymore mine. The weapon was marked 'inert' but it had inexplicably exploded. As the first medic to the scene I was confronted with two seriously injured casualties. SGT Len Usher was laying on his back, one leg was blown off above the knee and deposited on the roof of a nearby building, his other leg was a pulpy mess, shredded by high velocity ball bearings, his trousers were blown away and his shirt was smouldering with fire – he was conscious, bleeding and in severe shock. Warrant Officer Colin Barbour was conscious and attempting to stand. He took the force of the back blast, causing severe burns to his face and torso and temporary blindness. Acting instinctively and according to my training, I set about doing what had to be done.

I quickly assessed that SGT Usher was the more serious of the two and I treated him while instructing another soldier how to treat and manage the warrant officer. I applied a tourniquet and shell dressing to SGT Usher's stump and another tourniquet to his remaining leg and I treated him for shock. The battalion Land Rover ambulance fitted with primitive stretcher frames arrived simultaneously with the RMO. Soon, both casualties were loaded and the vehicle rumbled off to Royal Brisbane Hospital with a police escort. Both casualties survived.

For my part, and all of 18 years young, my reputation was established and I was next day promoted to Temporary Corporal

This event illustrates that incidents such as this can happen unexpectedly. Secondly, this was my bleeding - the first occasion that others had looked to me to do my job. The job they expected I could do. It was my awakening; casualties do not necessarily happen singly as I had practiced in training; the sight of this living mutilated body was grotesque; and I discovered that blood is hot - 37°C hot. Initially, when I placed my hand on the bleeding stump it was automatically repelled by the unexpected heat. I also found that blood in large volume is thick and gluey, it is sticky and it has a pungent sickly odour.

I was later to treat a soldier whose leg was crushed under the track of an Armoured Personnel Carrier. This occurred at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Central Queensland. His grossly disfigured leg had multiple fractures and he was in severe pain and it was nearly two hours before a helicopter arrived to evacuate him to Rockhampton. In peacetime medics were not permitted to carry morphine or similar pain relief and this became an issue for me. I asserted then, and do to this day, that when operating in remote areas medics must have the means to treat severe pain.

I soon found it ironic that in Vietnam there were no such restrictions on medics administering morphine and I had no hesitation in using it to relieve the suffering of sick and wounded soldiers. In fact it was here that we were issued morphine for the first time ever, the RMO giving us a 'soldier's five' on how and when to use it.

Continued next month

ANZAC DAY 2014

LEST WE FORGET



ANZAC DAY 2014

LEST WE FORGET



"Sitrep, Over!"*Dear David***LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

On Sunday, 25 May at 11.00AM, the South Australian Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association Inc. will be conducting a Boer War commemorative service at the South African War Memorial on the corner of North Terrace and King William Street in front of the gates of Government House in Adelaide.

All members of the public are invited to attend the above service, especially descendants of Boer War veterans, members of the South Australian military units and corps detailed below, plus any of their respective Association members are also very welcome to attend. (Tributes / Wreaths may be placed when indicated during the service.)

"Due to expansions and amalgamations of units in the Australian Army throughout the period of time since the Boer War the following units regular and reserve still existing on the Order of Battle carry the honour South Africa 1899-1902 in recognition of their descent from the units above. It should be noted as well that some dormant units (that is those units no longer actively on the Order of Battle) of the Australian Army also carry the honour South Africa. In South Australia the honour is carried by:

3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles

The Royal Australian Artillery

The Battalions of The Royal South Australia Regiment

The Royal Australian Army Medical Corps"



(Ref: http://www.bwm.org.au/site/Battle_Honours.asp)

The sole object of the National Boer War Memorial Association Inc. is to "design, fund and construct a Boer War Memorial at section 41, Reid in Anzac Parade, Canberra."

The design of the memorial has been formally approved, construction of the first statue is almost complete and the second statue, out of a total of four statues, is getting underway. Funding for this memorial has progressed at a slower rate than desired, but with the appointment of Mr Michael Crouch AM as fundraising chairman, it is hoped that funding will be accelerated to enable completion of the memorial by 25 April 2015. Donations to this National memorial will be gratefully received:

(Ref: http://www.bwm.org.au/documents/NSW_Newsletter_201403.pdf)

In addition, the above association is seeking to have all South Australian descendants of all ages of Boer War veterans register on website www.bwm.org.au. To research your ancestry for Boer War Veterans on the above website, enter the site, select the "Ancestor Search" box, and then check out both the "Australians" and the "Imperial" databases for ancestors from both the paternal and maternal sides of your family tree.

Ancestors not on the website database may also be entered onto the website.

We hope to have a huge attendance at the commemorative service on 25 May 2014 and would be very pleased to see you and your President Rod Beames there. I note that Doug Strain is one of your members and am aware he has an ancestor who was a Boer War veteran. I believe it would be appropriate to make Doug and other members of your association aware of the event so anyone interested may also attend on 25 May 2014. Medals may be worn. (Parking is available on Torrens Parade Ground.)

I have also invited CO 10/27 Battalion to attend, with unit representatives. In addition, I have included MAJGEN Neil Wilson AM RFD because he is the Regimental Colonel of the RSAR and would wish to attend if he is available.

Yours faithfully,

Murray

Lieutenant Colonel Murray E Alexander RFD ED (RTD)
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www.bwm.org.au

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Just Soldiers

Lance Corporal Vernon Warner

Final Part

On 6 August, the Diggers sat in their trenches, hearts pumping and pulses racing, as they carried out final checks on their weapons and prepared for battle. The attack was scheduled for 5.30 pm that day. Since it would develop into a night action, the troops were ordered to sew white bands onto each sleeve of their tunics and affix a white triangle of tin to their packs. This would aid them in identifying one another in the darkness and avoid casualties from friendly fire.⁴ As he tied off the last stitch, Warner turned to his cobbler and muttered, 'I reckon it just gives the Turks somewhere to aim'.

The word passed down the line, 'Get ready to move, get ready to move'. Warner hurriedly shoved his wallet, diary, pay book and bible into his tunic pocket. Huddled against the wall of the trench, Vernon faced his mate and said, 'You cover my back and I'll cover yours'.

Amid the explosions of artillery shells, the shrill sound of a whistle sent them on their way, bayonets fixed and glistening in the afternoon sunlight. As they ran forward—some laughing and singing, indicating their nervousness—all hell broke loose.



AWM P01116.063 Gallipoli, November 1915. The hospital at Walden Grove, where the 4th Australian Field Ambulance was based, with its tents and dugouts in the hillside under snow after the blizzard.

Warner struggled to stay alongside his mate. Suddenly, as if in slow motion, they saw a bomb hurtling through the air towards them. Warner screamed at his mate to take cover, but his friend didn't hear him. When the bomb exploded, a jagged piece of shrapnel took his mate's head off at the neck. He watched in horror as the decapitated body took a couple of steps before crumbling to the ground.

Warner, shaken at what he had just witnessed, paused as he realised his uniform was covered in his mate's blood. Before he had time to recover from the shock of his friend's death, he felt excruciating pain as a bullet slammed into him, tearing flesh and muscle, and smashing the bone as it passed through his left arm. He lay on the ground, staring at the darkening sky, feeling his life ebbing away as he lapsed in and out of consciousness. The last thing he heard before the darkness engulfed him was a gruff, 'You'll be right, mate'. Warner struggled to open his eyes. The voice calling him was softer than the last he had heard. He felt a damp cloth gently pat his forehead. 'Welcome back, Corporal', the gentle female voice said. 'Where am I?' he asked. 'You're on a hospital ship off Gallipoli.' Warner took stock of his surroundings and through a veil of pain he remembered being hit in the arm. 'Did you get the bullet out?' he asked. 'I'm afraid we had to take the arm off, Corporal', the sister replied. Warner drifted in and out of consciousness for the next few days.

During one of his waking periods, the sister said to him, 'You must have someone looking after you, Corporal'. In response to Warner's perplexed expression, the sister held up the items from his tunic pocket. He saw that the Turkish bullet had perforated his wallet, diary, pay book and had penetrated three-quarters of the way through his bible, where the round was still visibly embedded. Warner now realised the implications of the sister's remarks. Had the bullet gone all the way through the bible, it would have punctured his heart and killed him outright.

As he looked at the empty sleeve of his pyjamas, he declared, 'Sister, I must be the luckiest man alive'.

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

"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
 #Beckett, David
 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
 Durdin, Russell
 Durrant, Chris
 Edson, Roger
 Elliott, Graham
 Elliss, Scott SM
 Eva, Keith
 Ewens, Mimi SM
 Field, Don
 Flanagan, Ted
 Fridday, 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
 #Haynes, Scott
 Hogan, Mark LM
 Hook, Alan LM CoM
 Hope, David
 #Hudson, Mick
 Hudson, Rick
 Humphrys, Jesse SM
 James, Grant SM CoM
 Jeffrey, Scott SM
 Johnson, Barry LM
 Jolly, David
 Jones, Brett
 Keenan, Alan
 Kilford, Brian
 Klopff, Alex LM CoM
 Klopff, 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
 Klopff, 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**

184 members as at 22/04/14

The RSAR Association
 welcomes new members
**MICK HUDSON, SCOTT
 HAYNES & DAVID
 BECKETT.** Mick served with
 10 RSAR, 27 RSAR and 10/27
 RSAR for over 30 years. Scott
 has served with 49 RQR and
 10/27 RSAR, AND David is
 currently in the Standby
 Reserve after serving with
 10/27 Bn, AUR and the British
 Army.

"Sitrep, Over!"

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 South Australia Regiment
 Association Inc

HOW TO CONTACT US

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Find us on
FACEBOOK

www.rsara.asn.au



Private Gomad reckons.....

I was in a bar with me mates, Jock, Toff and Paddy. The conversation went like this!

"As good as this bar is," said me mate Jock, "I still prefer the pubs back home..... In Glasgow, there's a wee place called McTavish's. The landlord goes out of his way for the locals. When you buy four drinks, he'll buy the fifth drink."

"Well, Jock," said me other mate Toff, "At my local in London, the Red Lion, the barman will buy you your third drink after you buy the first two."

"Ahhh, dat's nothin'," said me other mate Paddy, the Irishman. "Back home in me favourite pub, the moment you set foot in the place, they'll buy you a drink, then another, all the drinks you like, actually. Then, when you've had enough drinks, they'll take you upstairs and see dat you gets laid, all on the house!"

We all said we were suspicious of the claims. "Did this actually happen to you, Paddy?" "Not to me meself, personally, no," he admitted "but it did happen to me sister quite a few times."

Gee, youse gotta larf !!!

The stories and opinions that appear in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Committee of Management, nor any other members of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc (Metro). All stories and articles are reprinted with permission of the authors. With humorous articles, no intention to offend is intended in any way. If any offence is taken, the Editor can be contacted on 0407 791 822.

A "Gomad" story from Stewy Stewart

Now for the serious stuff. You mentioned Pte Gomad in the Feb Newsletter, Geez mate he's been around for a long time. I remember on one occasion we were entertaining a group of WW2 Vets and some of these fellers were a little bit over the hill, even older than me. Anyway Gomad was trying to give these oldies some advice, to be more precise he was telling them how they could save around 10 percent every time they went to the supermarket, and this is what he said is all they have to do.

First of all they have to restrict themselves to about \$22.00 worth of purchases at a time,

Only take \$20.00 into the shop with you, making sure it is all in small change, the smaller the better. Next spread this money throughout every pocket in your clothing, the more pockets the better

Now do your shopping, keep a tally, and stop when you have reached \$22 - \$24.00. Place all the items except one evenly throughout your pockets.

Now the next bit requires a bit of planning! Wait until all the check outs are all occupied, find one that has a customer with a trolley full of groceries who is next in line to be served.

With your 1 item clearly visible push in front of this customer, badly limping as you do so, a runny nose or a bad cough will help, say something like "you don't mind do you? But I have to get to the Doctor!"

Before the customer can answer turn your back to him/her and lean on the counter waiting to be served.

When the check out operator is about to serve you, produce all the other items. Don't produce any money yet, wait until the operator has totaled up the sale then start looking for your money.

As you produce all the loose change from your pockets bring with it a large assortment of screws, nuts, bolts, nails, dirty tissues, dirty handkerchief (a damp one is good.)

Now count out your money making a few errors as you go taking as much time as possible, its odds on that the girl behind the cash register is not going to help you sort it out if you do this properly.

Next start moaning the fact that you appear to be \$2.00 short and that you really need all this stuff today, muttering about "can't get back today," then more loudly "God I wish this pain in my chest would go away!!"

Now for the sealer. "Look I will have another look in my pockets. I'm sure I had another couple of dollars somewhere!"

By now the person behind you with the large trolley full of groceries who has been waiting at the checkout for 10-15 minutes will have had enough and will produce the balance and send you on your way

Gomad assured everybody that it has been tried and tested

Happy Shopping :-)

Stewy

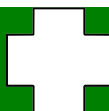
In Clare

RSAR. Proud to Serve. Proud to March



Just a reminder that this will be the last Sitrep newsletter that is printed in HARD COPY. Our printing benefactor for the past 5 years is unable to continue this service, therefore unless someone can come up with an alternative printer, only email copies will be sent out. If you know of a company who can print out up to 30 colour newsletters of 5 - 8 pages per month, please advise the editor ASAP.

In the RAP



In the Regimental Aid Post recently were Lee Rossetti from Broken Hill (who made the long trip down from Broken Hill for a short visit to Sportsmed), Don McCulloch from West Lakes, Brian Kilford from Mannum, Don Field of Torrens Park, and Barry Pollard a 10 Battalion stalwart (and host of our AGM). All these members are suffering from an ancient malady called "Growing Old", and were wondering if anyone has a cure for this condition? We wish all a speedy recovery and look forward to marching alongside them again in the very near future. If you know of any member who has had to visit the RAP in recent times, please let the editor know.

EARLY WARNING FOR CHRISTMAS BBQ



End Of Year BBQs in previous years have been held at Semaphore and Sturt Reserve Murray Bridge with varying degrees of success. The Committee of Management have decided that this years event will be held at Keswick Barracks on Sunday 14th December from 1000 hrs to 1400 hrs.

RSM of 10/27 Battalion, WO1 Adrian Hodges has kindly consented to us utilising the Keswick Barracks Sergeants Mess (KBSM) and adjoining areas, which include gas barbeque facilities and plenty of parking. There is also a large shaded and grassed area adjacent to the Mess, which is ideal for our needs. All BBQ meat and salads will be provided **FREE OF CHARGE** by the Association and all drinks can be purchased at Mess Prices. You need to bring only yourself and your wallet.

Further details will be published in future Sitreps. Lock the date in NOW!

Next Luncheon Sunday 15th June

The next luncheon on Sunday 15th June will feature Guest Speaker Lieutenant Colonel Graham Goodwin, Commanding Officer of 10/27 Battalion, RSAR.

LTCOL Goodwin will talk about his recent deployment with the ADF to Timor Leste as the Operations Commander. Graham has been extremely supportive of the RSAR Association in his tenure as Commanding Officer 10/27 Bn, and we look forward with interest to his talk.

The luncheon will be held in the 1st floor Functions Room of the Royal Hotel, 2 North Tce Kent Town at midday.

Anyone wishing to reserve a seat for this interesting function are advised to contact Norm Rathmann on his email of normgeelong@yahoo.com or 0448 460 884.



LTCOL Graham Goodwin



**UK member
Mike Sands**

The RSAR Association now boasts members from **all** Australian states AND overseas. You don't have to reside in Australia just to be a member. Mike Sands of Norfolk in the UK served with 10/27 Battalion and Adelaide University Regiment in the 80's & 90's and is a full member.

He's also our unofficial UK Ambassador.

If you know of anyone who served with the Regiment or it's affiliated units, please pass on our details to them, and ask them to contact us. They will be delighted that the friendship and camaraderie they knew in their serving days continues within the association.

Join now. It's never too late!!

How to speak KIWI

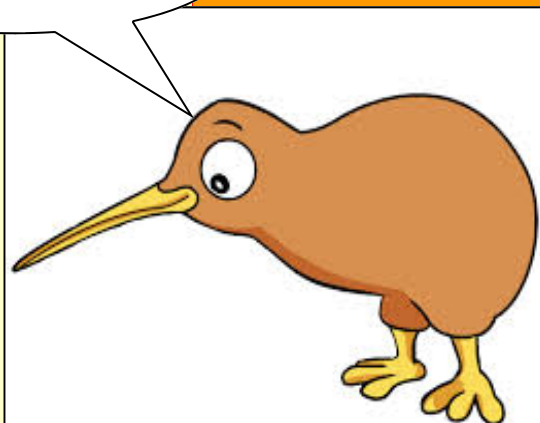
Put Free

Say out loud for full effect!

Beers - large savage animals found in U. S. forests
 Veerjun - mythical New Zealand maiden
 One Doze - well known computer program
 Brudge - structure spanning a stream
 Sex - one less than sivven
 Tin - one more than nine
 Iggs Ecktly - Precisely
 Earplane - large flying machine
 Beggage Chucken - place to leave your suitcase at the earport
 Sivven Sucks Sivven - large Boeing aircraft
 Sivven Four Sivven - larger Boeing aircraft
 Cuds - children
 Pits - domestic animals
 Cuttin - baby cat
 Munce - usually served on toast

Apologies to any Kiwi who may be offended, but..... you started it!!!

I ricken you're a wenker bro, eh?





The Band of the 10th / 27th Battalion
Royal South Australia Regiment
Presents

A Night of Bigband!



Be entertained with works by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin,
Michael Bublé, Robbie Williams and more ...

Saturday 10th May 2014
from 7 pm
Building 34A Keswick Barracks

Tickets available now **\$10**
or on the night at the door

10/27 Orderly Room: **08 8305 6165**
Anthony / Band: **0414 830 321**
Erin / Band: **0411 832 488**

