



"Sitrep, Over!"



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

June 2015

Newsletter edited by David Laing
0407 791 822

Volume 2 Issue 5

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FEEDING THE BATTALION.....PLUS

by Rodney Beames



RSARA members (Col Abel 2nd from left) who assisted cooking the BBQ for Bravo Company 10/27 Battalion.

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David,

There's quite a story which goes with this so here goes.

As was mentioned at the COM's meeting on Friday, I had the numbers for the impending arrival of the Battalion somewhere between 50 and 90 covered and they were to arrive at 11.30 hrs. I had also arranged for the ex WO caterer from 10 Battalion (Colin Abel) to be there a little earlier to make some of the salads. The BBQs were already in place with full bottles of gas. But as with troops in the past, after a long exercise it is not unusual to put the foot down on the way home and I received a call from the Adjt to say they were already at Pt Wakefield and heading towards Keswick at a great rate of knots.

I called those who I had mobile numbers and they dropped what they were doing and came in. The troops arrived an hour early but by this time we were well into cooking and it wasn't too long and we were able to start feeding. Sausages, burgers, bacon and bread plus a selection of ten salads, water melon and pineapple for dessert, washed down with tea, coffee or orange juice. The troops and NCOs were impressed (and quietly, so was I). There were seconds for the hungry ones and the CO paid us many compliments.

I was able to open dialogue with him and the Adjt re RSARA members visiting the electronic range at Warradale. Their early plan is that it will be on a Tuesday parade night and the 3 Field Sqn (attachment to 10/27) with show us their stuff as well.

While we haven't got a firm date, they need to know numbers to book the range, so its up to us. Cheers Rodney.

There you have it. Any members who would like to visit the Warradale WETS Range with 10/27 Bn on an approaching Tuesday night, are asked to let the Secretary know ASAP so arrangements can be made.

Reserve your place by contacting David Laing on 0407 791 822 or davidlaing49@bigpond.com

Limited places, so first come, first served.

Just Soldiers

WO2 Noel Eric Bolton-Wood

Part 1

AGE NO BARRIER

It was early August 1914 as the three brothers sat at a kitchen table, listening intently as the eldest read aloud the news report of the German Army's rampage across France and Belgium. 'Well boys, it looks like there's gonna be a war', he said as he passed the paper across the table for the others to see.

Eric, as the youngest of the three preferred to be called, was merely 15 years old. He remained seated after his brothers had left, his young mind full of thoughts of the war. 'Ain't no way I'm missing this', he muttered to himself.

Armed with a bogus letter of consent—supposedly written by his mother—the boy presented himself for enlistment in the AIF. The recruiting sergeant eyed him up and down suspiciously. 'How old did you say you are, young fella?' he asked. 'Nineteen, just like it says in the letter, Sir', the cheeky lad replied. 'All right, move on to the doctor', the sergeant ordered with a flick of his head. The medical examination was a breeze for the fit and healthy youngster, and Eric was subsequently allocated to the 13th Battalion as a reinforcement. He thrived on the mateship, camaraderie and the day-to-day challenges of the military training.



AWM H03358. Liverpool, NSW, 1914. New recruits moving through the Army camp lines.

When on local leave, with a jaunty stride, he'd march down the main street of Liverpool tipping his slouch hat and winking at the giggling young ladies he passed en route. He was young, strong, cocky and full of fight. The training was continuous for the men of the 13th Battalion. Even aboard the troopship taking them to Egypt, much of the day was spent honing weapon skills and preparing the Diggers for war. On their arrival at the Mena training camp, Eric and his mates marvelled at the strange sights,

sounds and smells of Egypt. Like most of the Australian soldiers at the camp, Eric had never ventured far from home before embarking on this 'grand adventure'—a sentiment shared by so many when making the decision to voluntarily go to war. He was in awe of the giant pyramids that rose from the sand so close to the camp and when on leave was quick to sample the distractions offered in nearby Cairo. However, he was constantly aware of the uncertainty that lay ahead, but, with his natural youthful enthusiasm, he saw little point in wasting time worrying about the future.

Part 2 next month

By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, Just Soldiers, ADCC Publications, Brisbane, pg 27 to 34

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from a 10/27 Bn A Company soldier

David

As a member of the 10th/27th Battalion (A Coy – Mt Gambier) I attended the recent exercise in Cultana. I am corresponding now to thank the Association and the members that participated, in supplying the lunch at Keswick Barracks upon our return. I am sure you were thanked for your efforts by the battalion and its members; however not only was the lunch fantastic but the consideration for us was much appreciated. This was discussed by the members by Mount Gambier on the way home and was unanimous, therefore I elected myself to further thank you and your team once again.

Pro Patria

Cpl Chris Smaling

A Coy 10th/27th Battalion RSAR.
Mt Gambier SA



28th JUNE LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER

Our next luncheon on 28th June at the Hackney Hotel will feature an interesting guest speaker, with an intriguing subject.

We are to welcome Monty Smith, Historian to this meeting. She comes highly recommended as an entertaining speaker.

Monty and her colleague June Haggett have recently published the most comprehensive volume ever compiled listing the men and women of South Australia who volunteered to serve in South Australian contingents to the South African Boer War of 1899 to 1902. The book is entitled "A Jam Tin of Mosquitoes."

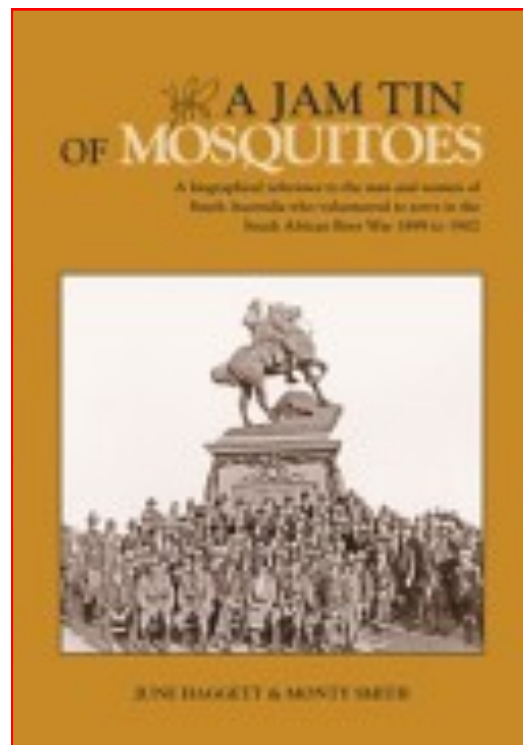
Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the luncheon for only \$64.95 and cash or cheques are acceptable.

Both Monty Smith and June Haggett are members of the National Boer War Memorial Association which is fundraising to build a Boer War Memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra, ACT. Monty is also a member of the Anglo-Boer War Study Group and has contributed to their magazine "Kopje."

Monty will present a Power Point Presentation entitled "Before Gallipoli – what?" and this will remind us that South Australia's military history did not begin on the 25th April, 1915 and, that our first contingents to South Africa were indeed Infantry.

The 2015 theme for the National Boer War Memorial Association is **Fathers of the ANZACs**.

Members and friends wishing to attend the Luncheon on SUNDAY 28th June at the Hackney Hotel at midday are invited to contact Norm Rathmann for bookings on his email of normgeelong@yahoo.com or his mobile of 0448 460 884.



Bookings are ESSENTIAL, as we have previously received 40 plus bookings and 60 people have arrived for lunch. This is not only extremely hard to organise extra seating and tables at a moments notice, it is embarrassing to the Committee who organise these events. PLEASE BOOK FIRST. NO BOOKING, NO SEAT.

Letter to the Editor from the President

David,

The response for help at the 10/27 Battalion BBQ has been over-whelming. I don't need any more. We've even got the ex WO caterer from 3/9th SAMR (Col Abel) coming along to help. I spoke with the QM from 10/27 and he said cater for 90 max so that's what I'm doing, but he added that 50 would probably be closer to the mark because there were a lot pulling out at the last moment. (It will be embarrassing if we have as many from the Association as there are OR's.

The phone calls and e mails only adds to my strong belief that this "bunch of has beens" that make up our Association are the greatest bunch I've ever dealt with. It makes my hair stand just thinking what might have been if we were ever put to the test and we're not finished yet.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time. Your efforts haven't gone unnoticed.

Regards,

Rod Beames

See story Page 7



KIWIS SOLDIERS SPONSORED BY RSAR ASSOCIATION

In early May Rod Beames was contacted by 10/27 Bn (at very short notice) to assist with hosting 4 New Zealand Defence Force soldiers who were on exchange exercise with 10th/27th Battalion RSAR. The Kiwi soldiers had a couple of days up their sleeves before experiencing the "wonders of Cultana", and Rod was tasked with "entertaining them" for this period.

After some hasty emails and phone calls, guided tours of Hahndorf, the Adelaide Oval Complex and Torrens Training Depot were undertaken. The hosts for the 2 days were Rodney and Norm Tregenza, who both willingly gave of their time (and fuel) to drive the Kiwis around.

Marketing Manager of RSL - SA, Keith Harrison very generously presented the NZ guests with complimentary RSL baseball caps whilst they were looking around TTD, and these were received with much gratitude.

The Kiwi soldiers have now returned to NZ, however copies of this newsletter will be sent to them, and it's hoped they will keep in touch in the future.



L- R: LCPL Tim McLeod, RSLs Keith Harrison, LCPL Chris Yoxall, CPL Damian Morgan, Rod Beames, LCPL Dave Rountree

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from a 10/27 Bn B Company soldier

Hi David,

I just wanted to thank you guys from the Association on behalf of the boys in the Battalion for the fantastic food that was put on for us last Sunday at Keswick Barracks - I know the lads really appreciated it. I also, to my shame, never thanked you guys for the gift box you sent us on our Malaysia deployment last year, which had an awesome novel that helped me through the bored times.

Kind Regards

James Moschis

B Company 10/27 Bn RSAR



An old lady from Brisbane decided to give herself a big treat for her 85th birthday by staying overnight in an expensive hotel.

When she checked out next morning the desk clerk handed her a bill for \$450.

She exploded and demanded to know why the charge was so high. It's a nice hotel but the rooms certainly aren't worth \$450 for just an overnight stay! I didn't even have breakfast."

The clerk told her that \$450 is the 'standard rate,' so she insisted on speaking to the manager.

The manager appeared and, forewarned by the desk clerk, informed the woman "This hotel has an Olympic-sized pool and a huge conference centre which are available for use."

"But I didn't use them," she said.

"Well, they are here, and you could have," explained the manager.

He went on to explain that she could also have seen one of the in-hotel shows for which the hotel is famous. "We have the best entertainers from the world over performing here," manager said.

"But I didn't go to any of those shows," she said.

"Well, we have them, and you could have," the manager replied.

No matter what amenity the manager mentioned, she replied, "But I didn't use it!" and the manager countered with his standard response.

After several minutes discussion, with the manager unmoved, she decided to pay; she wrote a check and gave it to him.

The manager was surprised when he looked at the check. "But madam, this check is for only \$50."

"That's correct. I charged you \$400 for sleeping with me," she replied.

"But I didn't!" exclaimed the very surprised manager.

"Well, too bad. I was here and you could have."

Don't mess with Senior Citizens.



Private Gomad reckons.....

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A REQUEST FOR HELP

Hello David

I am researching my great-uncle Charles Lingard Davidson from Adelaide who was a member of the SA Scottish Volunteer Regiment between 1906 and 1910. Charles was born in 1885 and studied at the School of Mines & Industries in Adelaide. In 1910 he decided to further his Engineering studies at Loughborough University in Leicestershire, England. (He had family living in the area.) Unfortunately his studies were interrupted with the start of WW1. He gained a commission in September 1914 as a Second Lieutenant with the Sherwood Foresters in Nottingham. On his enlistment papers he mentions that he spent two years with the Scottish Volunteer Regiment in SA. Tragically he was killed at Gallipoli in August 1915. His body was never found and his name is listed on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. His family in Adelaide waited four years for confirmation of his death.

I am trying to construct a profile of Charles's early life and any information you have would be very gratefully received.

Kind regards

Joy McPherson

joymcph@bigpond.com

If any member can assist Joy in this matter, please contact her via her email address. Editor.

Tour de Legacy Charity Ride Report

by Norm Tregenza

In February this year RSARA Committee Member Norm Tregenza approached the Committee with a request of sponsorship for the Tour de Legacy, in which his son, Daniel was participating. The task was to raise money for Legacy by way of a charity bike ride. Norm continues the story. Editor.

As most, if not all of you know, a second charity bicycle ride called Tour de Legacy was undertaken this year to coincide with the centenary of the Gallipoli Landing.

The purpose was to raise funds to support the work undertaken by and on behalf of Legacy Australia whose slogan and purpose is "Caring for the families of incapacitated and deceased Veterans"

Today Legacy supports 90,000 widows and 1900 children throughout Australia and in an ironical twist of fate the now widow of a dear friend of mine, a Vietnam Veteran who died just one week after the ride was completed, became a new recipient.

The twelve day ride over 1500 kilometres took twenty six riders from Canberra to Mildura where they were joined by a further fourteen members to complete the ride into Adelaide.

Throughout the exercise the group were supported by a small band of volunteers some of who went ahead in a leap frogging manoeuvre to prepare for rest and refreshment stops, lunch breaks and to organise overnight accommodation. Others stayed with the group as escorts, clearing the route ahead and warning oncoming traffic by way of flashing lights and signs while last, but not least, was the "Tail End Charlie" who protected them from behind and assisted with punctures and mechanical bicycle failures.

When I asked my son what were some of the highlights he experienced he immediately came out with the word camaraderie being "the mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together". Interestingly this is exactly the same answer one would expect and get from putting that question to soldiers about their military experience. Despite all else, their mates were what counted at that time. Personally I was delighted that this impacted on Daniel and headed up the list which went on to include things like; the personal challenge, the experience, the good and successful outcome etc.

The added responsibility of being charged with the carriage of the Dead Man's Penny awarded to Pte Stanley Thomas BREALEY, a farmer from Naracoorte, who died in France aged 20 years gave additional, deep and meaningful resolve. Every rider had a part to play in the transportation of the commemorative medallion which was handed on to the South Australian Governor upon their arrival here at Torrens Training Depot. That medallion now rests in the Army Museum, Keswick.

In all the group handed over a cheque to the value of \$155,000 after expenses for accommodation etc were paid for, of this Daniel's effort raised \$4572.50 to which our Association contributed. On behalf of Daniel I would like to express his heart felt thanks.

Norm Tregenza

Editors Note:

The Committee and members of the RSAR Association would like to thank Daniel for his wonderful efforts in helping to raise such a considerable sum for Legacy. Daniel, you have exceeded everyone's expectations and selflessly completed this very daunting task for a very worthwhile charity. Well done.



Daniel Tregenza with the "Dead Mans Penny" of PTE S T Brealey. The penny is now in the Army Museum of SA at Keswick

MEMBERS LIST

Abareh, Wadi **SM**
 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
 Boume, 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 (Jack)
 Davey, Trevor
 Dawson, Trevor **BAND**
 Del Vecchio, Victor
 Demasi, Nathan **SM**
 Demosani, Tony
 Domanski, Glenn
 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 **LM**
 Genovese, John
 Gibson, Lindsay
 Giles, John
 Gill, Graham

Gilmore, Graham **CoM**
 Gordon, Frank
 Hardy, Robert **SM**
 Harrington, Malcolm
 Harrison, John
 Hawking, Don
 Hawkins, Des
 Haynes, Scott
 Hewitt, Emily **BAND**
 Hogan, Mark **LM**
 Hook, Alan **LM CoM**
 Hope, David **LM**
 Horseman, Ian **LM**
 Hudson, Mick
 Hudson, Rick
 Humphrys, Jesse **SM CoM**
 James, Grant **SM CoM**
 Jeffrey, Scott **SM**
 Johnson, Barry **LM**
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 Jones, Brett
 Keenan, Alan
 Kilford, Brian
 Klopff, Alex **LM**
 Klopff, Paul
 Koop, Joshua **BAND**
 Laing, David **LM CoM**
 Lampard, Ross
 Lee, Bob
 Lee, Pat
 Lloyd, Elmer
 Lockett, John
 Longstaff, Paul
 Loveder, Peter
 Main, Brian
 Marcus, Ray
 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
 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**
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 Perkins, Bob
 Pollard, Barry
 Portakiewicz, Anthony **BAND**
 Portakiewicz, David **BAND CoM**
 Phillips, Don
 Phillips, Colin

Phillips, Trevor
 Payne, Bob
 Parslow, Howard
 Preece, Brian
 Rado, Stephen
 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**
 Slattery, Kimberly **BAND**
 Sniedze, Julie **BAND**
 Sprigg, Rob
 Staker, Cameron **SM**
 Standing, Michael **CoM**
 Stone, Eddie
 Strain, Doug
 Steer, Phil
 Stewart, Rob **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**
 Wilson, Graham **LM**
 Wilson, Neil
 Wood, George
 Woore, Phillip
 Yorke-Simpkin Reg **LM**
 Zurowski, Paul **SM**

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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
 Klopff, Josie
 Laing, June
 Lampard, Kay
 Main, Raelene
 Marcus, Yvonne
 Lee, Anne
 Mitchell, Roma
 Phillips, Heather
 Sanderson, Lorraine
 Tregenza, Lyn

HONORARY MEMBERS

G. Goodwin CO 10/27 RSAR
 T. Moore ADJT 10/27 RSAR
 M. Reyne RSM 10/27 RSAR

LM denotes **LIFE MEMBER**
SM denotes **SERVING ADF MEMBER**
CoM denotes **Committee Member**
BAND denotes **serving 10/27**
 Band member
Denotes **NEW MEMBER**
 207 members as at 5/5/15

AGM

The 2015 AGM will be held at
 the SA Sea Rescue Squadron
 HQ, Barcoo Rd West Beach on
Sunday 9th August at
1100 hrs.

All members and associates
 are invited to attend the AGM
 to listen to the Presidents, Sec-
 retaries and Treasurers Re-
 ports, and to vote on nomina-
 tions for the Committee.

The meeting will be followed by
 a lunch at 1200 hrs, which will
 be Crumbed chicken breast
 with mushroom gravy, potato
 bake, beans & carrots followed
 by apple/rhubarb crumble and
 ice cream

The cost of this will be \$15 per
 person, payable at the door on
 arrival.

**Bookings essential &
 apologies to the Secretary.**

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Royal South Australia
Regiment Association Inc

All correspondence to:-

RSAR Association

The Secretary David Laing

Riverglen Marina RSD 3152A

White Sands

S.A. 5253

davidlaing49@bigpond.com

0407 791 822



We're also on the Web!

Find us at:

www.rsara.asn.au

SITREP DISTRIBUTION

Email distribution of our monthly newsletter is absolutely free, and it's sent out to over 300 email addresses, including RSL State Branch, various kindred organisations (SAMRA, Ex 22 RVR Assoc, AUR, etc) and others.

The newsletter is passed on from there to an unknown number of emails, worldwide.

If you have anyone you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact the Editor, who will gladly add that email address to our distribution list.

WHERE DOES MY MONEY GO?

Membership fees for the RSAR Association are \$20 for FULL members and \$10 for ASSOCIATE members. Serving ADF members pay no fees whilst still serving.

So, from time to time we get questions about "What do I get for my money?" The answers are varied, but we'll cover them in detail.

The collective buying power of over 200 members means we can purchase merchandise like polo tops and name badges for cheaper prices by buying wholesale and in bulk. The same savings apply to our use of hotels for luncheons and the SA Sea Rescue Squadron for our AGM.

The RSAR Association also provides a FREE BBQ for members and their families at the end of the year in December, to thank members for their patronage.

Of course, these savings are only felt by members who purchase merchandise or actually go to the luncheons, AGMs and End Of Year BBQs. (Except their free copies of Sitrep!)

QUESTION: What do SA rural, interstate and overseas members get for their buck?

ANSWER: The Mission of the RSAR Association is to support and perpetuate the Regiment, and some of the ways we achieve this are:-

- Provide literary prizes for 10/27 Bn soldiers who have achieved excellence in their field during the year.
- Provide trophies for the same.
- Provide wreath for ANZAC Day (\$140)
- Update Honour Boards at 10/27 Bn HQ every year
- Supply, prepare and serve BBQ lunches to 10/27 Bn soldiers returning from Annual Field Exercises.
- Provide support to the Battalion by supplying sponsorship for various Battalion functions, ie: 2014 Centenary Ball, 2014 Centenary Church Service at St Peters Cathedral.
- Provide funds and manpower for projects not funded by Defence, ie: The Keswick Barracks Memorial Garden.
- Provide funds for musical instruments and maintenance of musical instruments for the 10/27 Battalion Band which are not funded by Defence.
- Periodic donations to charities like Legacy etc
- Payment of meals for Luncheon Guest Speakers ie: Peter Goers, Tim Hanna etc
- Payment of Room Hire for Luncheons
- Admin costs for printing and postage of newsletter "Sitrep, Over!" (30 hard copies)
- Association fees for Defence Reserve Association, of which we are a member
- Entertainment costs for visiting overseas soldiers (See story Page 4)
- Awards and "Thank you" for help to the Association

These costs are in the thousands per year, and are proudly borne by the Association. Without our assistance, the moral of a proud Regiment would not be as high, and we can remain proud that the money we raise through fees, subscriptions and merchandise goes to a worthy cause. To perpetuate the Regiment.

Any member who feels their money isn't going in the right direction is asked to contact the Secretary ASAP.

I expect the silence to be deafening.

David Laing

Secretary RSAR Association Inc