

"Sitrep, Over!"

Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc



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VALE Don Phillips

Inside this issue:

Letter to the Editor	2
10/27 Bn Linking 30th Anniversary Plans	2/3
Return to Vietnam Grocers and Gunners	4/5
In the RAP	6
Private Gomad reckons.....	7
MEMBERS LIST	8

It is with much sadness we advise of the passing of RSAR Association member Donald Stanley Phillips on 29th May 2016 at the Mary Potter Hospice.

Don was an OC at the Alberton Depot in its early days and served alongside other venerable diggers like Max Sanderson, Ross Fridday, Ian Carnachan, Barry Johnson and Wally Giles, just to name a few.

LTCOL Don Phillips was inaugural Commanding Officer of the 10th Battalion RSAR in its formation from 1 RSAR, with 27th Bn RSAR being commanded by LTCOL Max Sanderson and 43rd Bn RSAR coming under the ever watchful eyes of LTCOL Jeff Chittleborough.

Our sympathies go to Don's loving partner Audrey, and Don's extended family.

A Celebration of his of Don's life was conducted in the Alfred James Funeral Home, on Wednesday, June 1, and the service was attended by many former and serving members of the Regiment, including CO of 10/27 Bn RSAR LTCOL Trent Burnard.

Geoff Attenborough wrote some words to be included in the Eulogy, read by Geoff Lawrie.

Donald Stanley Phillips joined the CMF as it was then known on 9th May 1950 when he was 21 years old, and served until 1 Jan 1975.

His first Unit was the 27th Infantry Bn (the SA Scottish Regiment) where he proudly wore the kilt until that Unit became part of the newly formed 1st Bn RSAR, where he was posted to the Head Quarters with the rank of major.

In 1963 Don was posted as the Officer Commanding E Coy (the Port Adelaide Coy) based at Alberton.

Don really made this Company of essentially working class soldiers into as good a Company as any in the Regiment, and was especially proud when E Coy was selected as the No. 1 company when the Regiment was presented with its Colours in March 1964 by the then Governor of South Australia – LtGen Sir Edric Bastyan

Around 1965 Major Don Phillips was promoted to LtCol Phillips and became the first Commanding Officer of 10th Bn the Royal South Australia Regiment. In Sep 1967 he was selected to visit South Vietnam as a CMF Observer.

Don always had a love for the ceremonial side of military life which came to the fore, when in October 1967 he commanded the 10th Bn



Don and loving partner Audrey at the Reserve Forces Day Cabaret in Mt Gambier in 2011

Continued on Page 2

Royal South Australia Regiment on the occasion of Trooping The Colour at the Torrens Parade Ground.

The Reviewing Officer for this event was the then Chief of the General Staff (CGS) – LtGen Sir Thomas Daly who was himself a former Adjt and later Commanding Officer of 2/10th Bn during WW2.

It can be noted that Don incurred the wrath of the Commander of Central Command (the most senior military officer in South Australia) because he personally invited the CGS to review his Parade without going through the proper channels and first getting approval to do so. The first the Commander knew of the invite was when the CGS sent him a memo requesting accommodation in the Officers Mess for the occasion.

When Don's tenure as CO was ended he was appointed as Commander of the Officer Cadet Training Unit which produced many fine CMF Officers of which more than several are here today to farewell a fine Soldier, Officer and Commander.



LEST WE FORGET



LETTER TO THE CO

This letter was to the Commanding Officer 10th/ 27th Battalion RSAR, LTCOL Trent Burnard

Dear CO,

Please extend heartiest congratulations on behalf of myself and Dr Scott to the Unit Band for an outstanding performance at Murray Bridge on the weekend before Anzac Day. We both enjoyed a wonderful evening's entertainment and were both, once again, reminded of their professionalism and talent.

The selection and variety of items were a fitting and emotive preliminary for the Anzac Day activities.

Long may they be "Back by Popular Demand".

Pro Patria

Neil Wilson

Major General

Patron RSAR Association

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Good afternoon David,

I write to seek help in the distribution of a message to gain interest and assistance in the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Linking of the 10th and 27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment from our members, as so far the anniversary dates have rolled along with no or little recognition.

The date of the Anniversary will be 29th November 2017 and unless some of us make the effort, it will fade into history through lack of interest and effort. The concept I have in mind is a celebration at three locations, Iron Triangle, Mount Gambier and Adelaide, however, if there is sufficient interest from other regions, eg, The Riverland and Broken Hill, then there is no reason why that could not be made to happen.

.....continued next page.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED

The form of celebration is up for discussion; I'd suggest a "road show" in the form of a gathering at locations to be defined, for example, I have a DVD of the parade and many photos of the first 4 years and I'm sure there are many others out there as well. At whatever is planned, The former CO, LTCOL Neil Wilson AM RFD, now MAJGEN Wilson and myself, will be along with as many others who may wish to attend and share the moment with local former and or current members.

It would be nice, but maybe fanciful to think that we might gather and enjoy a BBQ or a meal in an RSL or such and maybe even a night in the bush (with a few home comforts), that will depend on what people would like to be involved in, it's open to suggestion.

Our Unit, 10/27 RSAR achieved much on formation; K89 is one of the real reasons that the ARES survived, as we involved the Old and Bold at close quarters through hosting their reunions, we exercised the Freedom of the City in multiple locations and brought home many trophies from events such as Australian Army Skill at Arms, in fact, we rode fairly high.

I may be biased, but I think it is worth one last "fling". If there were enough former Officer and SNR NCO's, in fact all ranks, there is no reason not to conduct a dinner. The current Serving Unit is far too busy, the Association is also busy, but I'm sure there are a few out there who would like to see something like this happen.

Please put your hands up and email me or ring if you would like to get involved, 17th months will fly by.

I have attached scans of the Linking Parade Programme, to be used as you see fit.

Hoping I have stirred some memories,

Denis Ranger

Alias "Tex"

MAJ D.F.Ranger OAM RFD (Retd)

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Editors Note: Although I left the Regiment before the historic linking of the 10th and the 27th Battalions, I believe we owe it to our forebears and indeed to those who still serve, to support Tex Ranger's ideas. History is nice to behold but very hard to recreate, and if we let this anniversary slip, some of us won't be around for the 40th and 50th Anniversaries.

The 50th Anniversary of The Battle of Long Tan is to be commemorated in August this year, and I know ex-servicemen and women all over the country are planning to remember those who went before and paid the supreme sacrifice. Likewise, we should make the effort to remember those who also signed up to "do their bit!"



The 10th and 27th Battalion Colours.

Return to Vietnam - Grocers & Gunners Tour

Twenty one Grocers and Gunners recently returned from an 18 day tour of Vietnam and Cambodia, which included a seven day luxury boat trip up the mighty Mekong to Cambodia on the five star Mekong Navigator.

The Grocers and Gunners are a group of Vietnam veterans and their friends who enjoy good company and a high quality travel experience. However, the tour has drawn many non-veterans who enjoy the easy camaraderie and friendship. The group was formed in 2009 by Phil Brookes, a Vietnam Veteran living in Queensland and member of the Royal South Australian Regiment Association. Phil organises and leads five star tours to Vietnam, Cambodia, China and France in conjunction with Opulent Tours, a Sydney travel agency.

Our tour started in sizzling Saigon; basing ourselves at the five star Sofitel Saigon. Many an afternoon was spent relaxing on the rooftop bar - overlooking the frenetic city - with cocktail or beer in hand and telling lies or expanding on the porkies already told. Our city tour was different from the usual tourist jaunt; being led by raconteur and local historian, Tim Doling, who provided a fascinating, in depth insight into the hidden architectural gems and history of Saigon.

Our pilgrimage to Vung Tau, Nui Dat and Long Tan was again very emotional, particularly for Trevor Lehmann, ex 1 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Engineers, who found his unit lines and stood in the exact spot where his tent was during his service; next to a Buddhist cemetery and memorial, which still remains.

Timor veteran, Jason Fenech, has set up a small museum at his house near the entrance to the 'Dat' and we spent an hour or so with him; it's a great collection and Jason spends his time cleaning up the task force site and collecting remnants of the Australians time at Nui Dat. Some of the Diggers who spent time in Saigon ventured out to the Free World Building, now a flash hotel and the Canberra BEQ in Cholon, our 'apartment', which is now a not so flash hotel.



Alex Pavlovich (ex 4 Field Regiment, RAA) and Trevor Lehmann ex 1 Field Squadron, RAE

The hotel management has thoughtfully removed the M60 machine guns and sand bags, so the nightly rate has been reduced to \$16USD.

After Saigon and Vung Tau, we headed to the Mekong Delta for our seven day cruise on the Mekong Navigator to Cambodia. This was certainly a highlight; our boat is one of the latest and luxurious on the Mekong and the cabins and facilities are five/six star. It could not be faulted, great staff, food and drinks included; heaven on a stick. The weather was perfect and the shore excursions excellent. On one of our visits to a Mekong village on the Vietnam side, we identified that the owner of the house we visited was a South Vietnamese veteran; very emotional for him and for us with lots of hugs, tears and laughter. There is a bond with all soldiers across the world.

Our Cambodia journey took us to Phonm Penh and its exquisite temples and palaces and little villages along the mighty Mekong. We also visited an orphanage and school where we interacted with the excited children, providing them with goodies, books etc; great fun for all of us. Sadly our cruise came to an end and we headed by bus to Siem Reap and the magnificent temples of Angkor Wat. We spent a couple of days exploring the breathtaking buildings in and around Angkor Wat and I can recommend sunrise at Angkor Wat; spectacular. The Cambodians are a gentle and infinitely polite people who are trying desperately to rebuild their country after the horrors of the Killing Fields, which we visited. Our base in Siem Reap was the magnificent Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Spa Resort. This hotel must be one of the best in Asia, a beautifully maintained colonial building, set in lush tropical gardens around a huge pool. It was the perfect place to relax and be spoilt.

Throughout our tour we experienced some great restaurants. In Saigon some of us ventured to a little French bistro, Atelier Des

Reves, run by a hardworking young Vietnamese couple who trained in Paris. KOTO, a few minutes from the Sofitel, was another favourite and the Hoi An, also nearby, where we dined on Australia Day and the traditional band, played Waltzing Matilda; a nice touch. Our little French Bistro 9 in Vung Tau hasn't changed, with great French provincial food and cheap beer. In Cambodia, the food was excellent, a couple of standout restaurants were Marum, which is one of the best in Siem Reap, a bit like KOTO and Asian Square restaurant.

All too soon our trip was over, with some of us heading to Hoi An for a few days, and others back to Australia via Singapore. Highlights? Every day was a new experience. For those of a literary bent; walking in the footsteps of Graham Green (The Quiet American) and Marguerite Dumas (The Lover) was fascinating. Returning to Nui Dat and Long Tan is always a highlight and



meeting Jason, who is working hard to preserve the history of the Diggers involvement, and his help to the locals, was inspiring. What struck us all was the unfailingly politeness of the Vietnamese and Cambodians who we met on our journey, particularly the Cambodians, who have suffered so much, but have great optimism. Our guides, who shared their many stories and the pride they felt in their history and culture. The people of the Mekong Delta were particularly friendly and open. Every Day we were greeted with great happiness and infectious smiles; this made our day.

This was our seventh Grocers and Gunners tour since our first trip to Vietnam in 2009, and thanks to your feedback and support, they keep getting better. Our trips have included Viet-

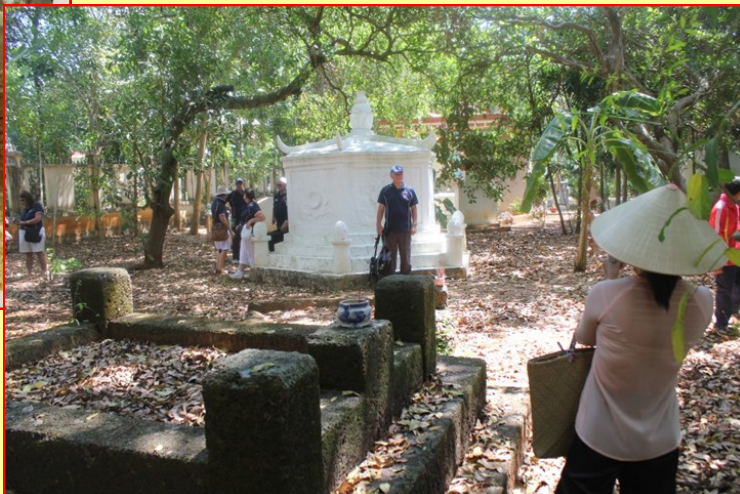
Grocers and Gunners at the Sofitel, Siem Reap

nam - something different each time - China, including the Harbin ice and snow festival, Yunnan Province (Shangri - la) and our France Anzac Tour in 2015. Future tours are Japan in October/November 2016 and our Anzac tour in 2018. For further information please contact Phil on 0418 719 166 or email: brookes1@bigpond.net.au



Left: Trevor Lehmann's tent during his service at Nui Dat on the left

Right: The same area today



In the RAP

Not many people don't know "old matey" Russ Durdin, and I found out recently that he's been suffering some ill health and has been "chained" to a hospital bed at Ashford for a few weeks.



I was having a regular Saturday morning coffee with my good mate Merv Schopp, president of the Murray Bridge RSL, when a mate of his walked by and stopped for a chat. They were talking about "Durds", and then Schoppy said to me, Hey, you know Russ Durdin. Isn't he one of yours?" Yes he is, and he's important to us!

It's a small world Mr Durdin, and you can run but you can't hide! We all know you're in Ashford opposite Le Cornu's, and we all know your mobile number is 0407 796 560. And we all know you're going to get some calls!

Take care, relax and Get Well Soon mate!



Seeking Help Finding Records

Dear David

As an Ex Serviceman and the grandson of a WWII Digger who served in the 2/10th Btn I was wondering if you could help me track down records or put me in the direction so that I can update my families records. Im chasing details for a

Pte - William Rimington Scott - VX75909 - 2/10th Btn AIF - MIA/KIA - 24/DEC/1942 Buna New Guinea

The War Memorial has very little information about him and he isn't buried in Australia or New Guinea as far as I can tell, My older brother who also served has his medals but I want information so that I can update the RSL Virtual Memorial also.

Also I am wanting to make a commemorative shirt for ANZAC Day use that will celebrate my Families Entire Service and I was wondering who do I need to get permission from to use my Grandfather 10 Btn DZ Flash. I would be a really appreciated if you could get back to me with some information.

Thanks for any help.

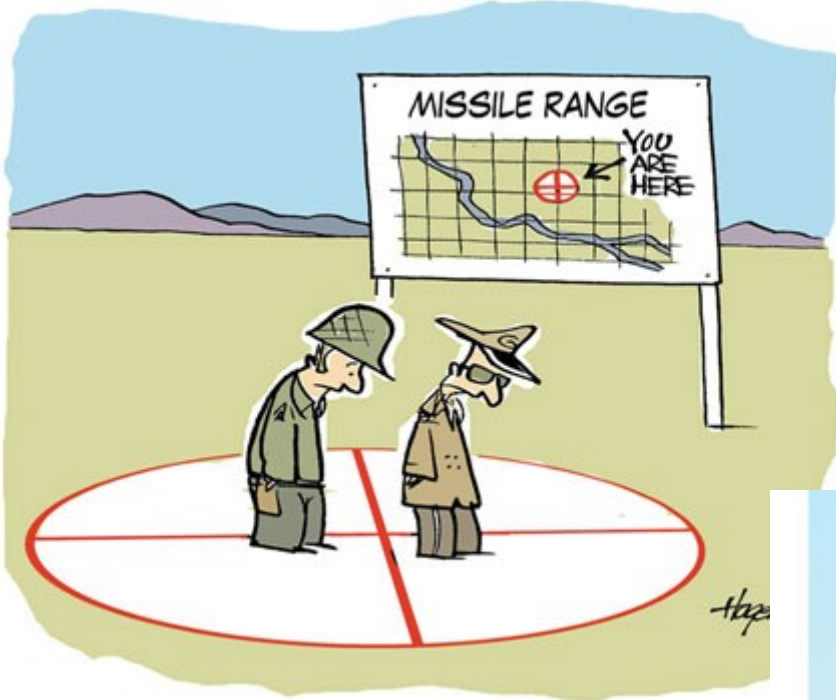
ABMT *Neil Lawrence*

RANR-VIC Region.

neil.lawrence1@hotmail.com

Editors Note: Requests like this come through about once or twice a month. My first reply is to advise searchers to check out the National Archives of Australia in Canberra, as they hold ALL military records from all wars. They can also point you in the right direction if you are seeking further information.

If any members can assist Mr Lawrence in his quest, please email him at the address above.



Private Gomad reckons.....



...and below from Member Terry Moore.

A young guardsman is on the gate at Buckingham Palace. The RSM walks up to him and says "Right lad, the Queen is out on public duties. I want to know the minute she gets back here, do you understand? The minute she's back you let me know!!!"

"Yes sir " says the young guardsman.

So 10 minutes later a big limo pulls in through the gates, the guardsman stops the car, pops his head in the window and says "scuse me ma'am are you the Queen? "

"No I'm princess Ann"

"Ok sorry to delay you, proceed".

The next limo pulls in and he sticks his head in the window " scuse me ma'am are you the Queen? "

"No I'm princess Margaret".

" Ok sorry to delay you ma'am, proceed.

Next limo pulls in and same again, he sticks his head in the window, "Scuse me ma'am, are you the Queen?."

"Yes I'm the Queen".

"Right" he says. "Well make yourself scarce love. cos the RSM is lookin for you".

CONTACT US!-

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Hardy, Robert **SM**
Harley, Peter
Harrington, Malcolm
Harrison, John
Hawking, Don
Hawkins, Des
Heath, Jonathon **BAND**

MEMBERS LIST

Page 7

Haynes, Malcolm **SM**
2IC
Haynes, Scott
Hewitt, Emily **BAND**
Hogan, Mark **LM**
Hook, Alan **LM CoM**
Hope, David
Horseman, Ian **LM**
Hudson, Mick
Hudson, Rick
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James, Grant **SM CoM**
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Lampard, Ross
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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**
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Orrock, Alan **CoM**
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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
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Rathmann, Norm **CoM**
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Tregenza, Norm **CoM**
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Westover, Rhys
Wheeler, Chris
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Wilson, Neil
Wood, George
Woore, Phillip
Yorke-Simpkin Reg **LM**
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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
Klopf, Josie
Laing, June
Lampard, Kay
Main, Raelene
Marcus, Yvonne
Lee, Anne
Mitchell, Roma
Phillips, Heather
Sanderson, Lorraine
Tregenza, Lyn
Winger, Kathleen

HONORARY MEMBERS

T. Burnard CO 10/27
RSAR
J. Moulton ADJT 10/27
RSAR
M. Reyne RSM 10/27
RSAR

LM denotes **LIFE MEMBER**

SM denotes **SERVING ADF MEMBER**

BAND denotes serving 10/27 Band member

Denotes **NEW MEMBER**

221 members

as at 10/6/16

Our newest member is currently serving our country in Afghanistan. He has been an Honorary Member in the past in his role as CO of 10/27 Bn, but now he comes on board as a FULL MEMBER SM.

Please join me as I welcome **LTCOL Graham Goodwin** to our team as the 221st member.