



Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

HMS Sheffield

LEST WE FORGET

On 4 May 1982, HMS Sheffield was sunk off the coast of the Falkland Islands, killing 20 men - Britain's first major casualties in the war with Argentina.

The ship, which had been hit just above the waterline by an Exocet missile, took several hours to sink, after structural damage caused it to flounder in choppy water.

Sheffield was the first major British warship lost in action for 37 years.

Hit by a missile fired from an Argentine fighter bomber, the ship had 268 crew aboard at the time of the attack and it wasn't until 10 May that the ship finally foundered.

The ship caught fire when a French-made Exocet missile penetrated deep into HMS Sheffield's control room. The blaze caused a poisonous smoke and most of the crew abandoned ship.

A major rescue operation was launched in the South Atlantic as relatives thousands of miles back in the UK waited for news of their loved ones.

The 4,100-ton destroyer was struck as it carried out a scouting mission off the Falklands, which Argentina had invaded and claimed as their own weeks earlier.

Inside this issue:

Announcing the news on television, the spokesman for the Ministry of Defence Secretary, Ian McDonald, said the ship was "in the course of its duty within the total exclusion zone around the Falkland Isles".

From The Sharp End	2/5
CFS Chief says thank you	7/8
Capt. Paul McKay	8/9
PTE Ted's Humour	11
Editorial	12
Letters to the Editor	13
The Boy in the Bag	14/15
All About Rationing	16/17
Financial Members as of April 2020	18
Application Form	20

The attack followed the sinking of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano. An Argentine diplomat in the United States said back in 1982 that the destruction of HMS Sheffield was "justified after the massacre that the English have done shelling our men and our ships".

It was the first of four Royal Navy ships sunk during the Falklands War. The others were the frigates Ardent and Antelope and the destroyer Coventry.

The Royal Fleet Auxillary vessel Sir Galahad and the British Merchant Navy ship Atlantic Conveyor were also lost.

LEST WE FORGET



Fees and Merchandise can be paid by EFT through the following Bendigo Bank account:

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From the Sharp End by PTE Zachary Normandale

Transit Security Element Rotation 95, Operation RESOLUTE.

By PTE Zachary Normandale

Operation RESOLUTE is the ADF's contribution to the Whole-of-Government effort to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests. The Operation RESOLUTE Area of Operations covers approximately 10 per cent of the world's surface and includes Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone which extends up to 200nm around the mainland.

At any one time, up to 800 ADF personnel at sea, in the air and on the land, are working to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests. They work alongside personnel from the Australian Border Force, Australian Fisheries, and the Australian Federal Police.

Transit Security Element (TSE) are the force elements assigned to Operation RESOLUTE. On a rotational basis, TSE personnel operate onboard Royal Australian Navy vessels in order to provide additional security on Suspected Illegal Entry Vessels and Foreign Fishing Vessels.

The following members for the 10th/27th Battalion, the Royal South Australia Regiment were part of Transit Security Element, Rotation 95 (TSE95):



LT Matthew Hume
A COY
SGT Marguerite (Kym) Prosser
A COY
CPL Mathew Dudson
A Sqn, 3/9 LH (SAMR)
LCPL Kim Woodley
B COY
LCPL Thomas Begg
A Sqn, 3/9 LH (SAMR)
PTE Benjamin Welke
A COY
PTE Zachary Normandale
B COY
TPR Charles Calleja
A Sqn, 3/9 LH (SAMR)
TPR Ashley Humphries
A Sqn, 3/9 LH (SAMR)
SPR Thomas Jak
3rd FD SQN
SPR Ioannis Patros
3rd FD SQN
MUS Nigel Fortune
10/27 Band

The deployment consisted of four phases: Phase 1 Force Concentration, Phase 2 Mission Specific Training, Phase 3 Force Assignment, & Phase 4 Demount.

Phase 1 – Force Concentration

Prior to departing Adelaide, we had a period of Force Concentration at Warradale Barracks where we completed all mandated admin requirements and started to get to know the team we were going to spend the next six months with. The Tasmanian pers also got acquainted with fine establishment 'the Woolshed' while they were in Adelaide.

Phase 2A – Individual Training

After ticking all the admin boxes at Warradale, we travelled to HMAS Cerberus, Victoria, referred to as "the cradle of the Navy" (the Navy's Kapooka). We spent five weeks at HMAS Cerberus conducting individual training while beginning to integrate with the Navy and learn their customs, traditions and everyday behaviours. Training at Cerberus was conducted by the Boatswain Faculty.

From the Sharp Endcontinued



Training included operating the Navy self-inflating devices, 9mm Pistol MK 3 elementary application of fire, use of force, use of the tactical baton, RAN Defensive tactics, and boarding operations common training.

The 9mm SLP elementary training consisted of a week honing our skills and conducting several live shoots utilising varying positions and distances at the 25m range. While at the range we expected the typical Army 'range sangas' daily for lunch, but much to our delight the Navy had a mess at the range serving all things deep-fried. We then learnt the Navy principles of Use of Force, and the application of the tactical baton. This was followed by a rather long week learning the RAN Defensive Tactics package which is their version of self-defence, this was hard for the combat corp pers as this training was a watered-down version of the Army Combative Program (ACP). We then went through the boarding party common package, which gave us a glimpse of what our role would involve when we got to Darwin.

We also participated in the regimented physical routine at Cerberus run by the PTI's. We joined in with Royal Australian Navy (RAN) members and aspiring Clearance Divers. As you can imagine, this got quite competitive with the constant feedback from PTI's Army outperformed our Navy counterparts at every opportunity.

To round out this phase, the completion of various online courses, theory lessons, practical swimming and survival training, along with essential briefings prepared us for our next stage of deployment. We even fit in (much to LT Hume's delight) some ceremonial drill for good measure on the parade ground alongside the category school (IET) trainee's and recruits respectively.

Phase 2B – Collective Training

The end of our Cerberus stay saw us travel to the Larrakeyah Defence Precinct (LDP) in the Northern Territory where the real entertainment commenced.

From the Sharp Endcontinued

From here, we spent two weeks with a harsh, robust and heavily regimented PT regime (no less than twice daily) run by the Navy PTI's. The PT consisting of both land and water activities to assist our acclimatisation to the NT humidity and ensure peak fitness for operational requirements. We also attended multiple briefings and passed assessments to certify us both individually and collectively for Force Assignment, which commenced on 06 Dec 19.

The last exercise for certification was a section level drill in which we left HMAS Coonawarra via a Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boat (RHIB) upon notification of a suspicious vessel abroad. We had to board this moving vessel in full kit, and in real-time. To ensure compliance of the crew (who outnumbered us) we utilised our newly taught RAN DT drills when we encountered behavioural and language barriers. Once control of the vessel was achieved and reported higher, we conducted a HOTO with another section as they boarded the vessel and returned to HMAS Coonawarra via RHIB. This was a memorable experience as there happened to be an Army Armed Reconnaissance Tiger Helicopter from 1AVN Regt also flying overhead which (although on its own tasking) gave us an appreciation of the joint task force environment we were soon to be involved in.

Phase 3 – Force Assignment

Upon commencement of Force Assignment, I was promptly assigned to HMAS Maitland, an Armidale Class Patrol Boat (ACPB) of the Royal Australia Navy under the command of Lieutenant Commander Julia Griffin. I was named 2IC of our section, and this



was my first six weeks at sea. This was a unique experience as we had a classified tasking from Maritime Border Command (MBC). For obvious reasons, the ins and outs can not be discussed, but this task resulted in a narcotics arrest and then prevented narcotics from entering the Australian mainland.

Due to the nature of this tasking, we were limited in the use of personal electronic devices. Daily we completed rehearsal of con-

From the Sharp Endcontinued

cept (ROC) drills for each department, collectively, and professionally regardless of day or night, rain or shine for the task at hand. At night, red light on the bridge was only used, with minimal talking and all non-essential tech covered to hinder even the smallest reflection. On top of the daily routine, we took part in up to 2x four-hour "watches" (think piquet) per day to ensure all-round security. To assist the crew, we also took part in helms training, and although did not gain a certified qualification as such, we were all competent to steer the ACPB if required, by day/night and under pressure.

It was fantastic to see first-hand and be involved in the joint efforts of the Army, Navy, Airforce, Australian Border Force and the Australian Federal Police all working together simultaneously in an operational environment.

As an Infantry Soldier, I was additionally put in the position of Gunner of the Watch (GOW) while on HMAS Maitland. A role which I held in a no duff environment at approx. 0345 one rainy morning in an illegal fisheries boarding. The GOW role is to act as over-watch during boardings, which is more complicated than it seems as you are continually adjusting and readjusting due to the nature of the ocean, sea state and movement of two vessels simultaneously; plus we were approx. 200m from the ship with only a NWS (Night Weapons Sight) and F88SA2 and the foreign vessel has multiple light sources to attract the fish.

The weather was not always pleasant to us on Maitland as we got caught on the edge of a tropical cyclone in Sea State 7 (up to 30ft waves) after picking up a large Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) illegally left in Australian Waters. Although I was never sick myself, it was nights like this I truly appreciated the land nature of the Army.

For Christmas we were lucky to be back at Darwin where we got to celebrate with the crew of the ship and catch up with the other members of the rotation. It was great to open our presents from the Royal South Australia Regiment Association, the gifts were much appreciated as we celebrated Christmas away from home.

Ten days after returning to Darwin, I received my second and final force assignment to the larger (more stable) vessel Australian Defence Vessel (ADV) Cape Fourcroy (named after the Western Tip of Bathurst Island). We spent nearly six weeks on this vessel and patrolled to the Torres Strait, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and sailed by the wreck of the infamous SMS Emden which sunk by HMAS Sydney 1 in 1914 off the Cocos Islands.

The operational highlight of this force assignment was being involved in fisheries boarding with the vessel having 4 tonnes of fish onboard, and my personal highlight was the opportunity to play an exhibition-style rugby game against the islanders of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Phase 4 – Demount

On return to Darwin after spending a collective 71 days at sea we had the usual tasks of demounting and returning all our mission-specific gear. On conclusion of our Force Assignment to OP RESOLUTE, we took part in a Medal Parade where we received the Australian Operational Service Medal – Border Protection presented by Rear Admiral Lee Goddard CSC, RAN, Commander Maritime Border Command. The parade was a great honour and exciting time as we officially handed over responsibility to the next rotation and began to think about returning home.

Transit Security Element Rotation 95 was a great success. It was a truly memorable experience to be able to provide capability to the Army in peacetime operations and a fantastic opportunity to contribute to an ADF and whole of government operation that protects Australia's homeland, its interests and its assets.

To conclude, I would like to thank the unit who prepared us to deploy on TSE95, and would like to thank the RSAR Association who sent us Christmas gifts and who provides on-going support to past and present members of the regiment.

Private *Zachary Normandale*

From the Sharp Endcontinued



Lieutenant Commander Julia Griffin

Lieutenant Commander Julia Griffin joined the Royal Australian Navy in July 2008, as a Maritime Warfare Officer from West Gippsland, Victoria. She completed Naval Officer training at HMAS Creswell, followed by her Junior Warfare Application Course at HMAS Watson and onboard HMAS Success, the Armidale Class Patrol Boat (ACPB) crew Assail One and HMAS Perth.

On completion of her training in 2011, Sub Lieutenant Griffin gained her Bridge Warfare Certificate and was promoted to Lieutenant, where she remained onboard HMAS Perth as an Officer of the Watch. In 2012, Lieutenant Griffin completed the Intermediate Navigation Course and became the Navigating and Operations Officer onboard the ACPB crew Aware One embarked in HM Ships Maryborough and Glenelg.

In July 2014, Lieutenant Griffin transferred to the Active Naval Reserves to pursue tertiary education, where she completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Nautical Science) through the University of Tasmania. Lieutenant Griffin received her Australian Maritime Safety Authority Deck Watchkeeper (Unlimited) qualification in 2015 and worked as a Deck Officer onboard the Toll Bass Strait Roll On/Roll Off ships and Shell Australia LNG carriers. During this period, Lieutenant Griffin continued to complete Naval Reserve postings as a Navigating Officer onboard ACPBs and at Minor War Vessel - Sea Training Group.

complete Naval Reserve postings as a Navigating Officer onboard ACPBs and at Minor War Vessel - Sea Training Group.

In January 2018, Lieutenant Griffin resumed full-time service and completed a posting to Minor War Vessel - Sea Training Group as the Operations Officer. In October 2018, Lieutenant Griffin was posted to the Transit Security Element, as the Operations Co-ordinator. In March 2019, she was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and posted to the Patrol Boat Systems Program Office as the Waterfront Manager, responsible for the sustainment and maintenance of all Patrol Boats.

From 2018-2019, Lieutenant Griffin was an Honorary Aide-de-camp to Her Honour the Administrator of the Northern Territory and is a Restricted Naval Pilot.

Lieutenant Commander Griffin completed a Graduate Certificate in Applied Science (Shipping Operations Management) in December 2019. She continues her studies and is undertaking a Masters of Applied Science (Shipping Operations Management) and a Masters of Business Administration (Maritime and Logistic Management).

In August 2019 Lieutenant Commander Griffin was selected for Command of HMAS Maitland, and assumed Command in December 2019.

Operation RESOLUTE

Operation RESOLUTE is the ADF's contribution to the Whole-of-Government effort to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests.

It is the only ADF operation that currently defends the Australia homeland and its assets.

The Operation RESOLUTE Area of Operations covers approximately 10 per cent of the world's surface and includes Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone which extends up to 200nm around the mainland. Christmas, Cocos, Keeling, Norfolk, Heard, Macquarie and Lord Howe Islands also fall within the Operation RESOLUTE boundaries.

Commander Maritime Border Command (MBC), Rear Admiral Peter Laver, RAN, is the overarching operational authority that coordinates and controls both Defence and Australian Border Force assets from his headquarters in Canberra.

Maritime Border Command is the multi-agency taskforce which utilises assets and personnel from both the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to safeguard Australia's maritime jurisdiction. Its maritime surveillance and response activities are commanded and controlled from the Australian Maritime Border Operations Centre in Canberra.

Deputy Commander of Operation RESOLUTE, Commodore Brenton Smyth, RAN, is responsible at the frontline for ADF assets operating under Operation RESOLUTE.

CFS CHIEF SAYS THANK YOU

The 2019/20 Fire Danger Season officially finishes at midnight tonight, finalising one of the busiest seasons in our history.

The CFS really started our season in September, more than a month before our own season officially started, as a horrendous start to the season in Queensland and New South Wales saw local crews stretched to their limits.



CFS Chief Officer Mark Jones has penned an open letter to the SA community, thanking them for their support during a devastating bushfire season. Picture: Brad Fleet Dec. 2019

Over the next three months until after Christmas, CFS dedicated more than 1,300 volunteer firefighter and incident management personnel to help these two states battle unprecedented bushfires.

Unfortunately this was only the start of our efforts this season with our own fires burning in catastrophic conditions near Port Lincoln and Yorketown in November, followed by the large fires in Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island in December and January. These were only a handful of the thousands of fires our CFS volunteers attended throughout the fire season with large fires in every Region from Keilira in the South East, Coonalpyn, Miltalie on the Eyre Peninsula and unfortunately too many others to name.

I dearly hope that more normal times will resume once the Coronavirus crisis has passed but South Australians can be assured that its Firefighters remain ready and available to answer calls for help whatever the challenges we face.

I took up the role of Chief Officer in October last year and was very quickly impressed by the professionalism and commitment of our many volunteers. This year in particular they gave up so much of their time, put their lives on the line and worked so hard to not only protect their local communities but travel throughout South Australia and interstate to help others.

Thanks must also go to the South Australian community who heeded our warning messages at the beginning of the season and prepared their homes against bushfire threat. Unfortunately too many homes were lost with a total of 179 burned this season, many simply because of the ferocity of the fires. The CFS bit

Continued from Page 7

terly regrets those losses and the tragic loss of 3 South Australians during the worst of the Fire Danger Season.

The community also listened and acted when we issued warning messages. Those three lives lost to



The SA Cudlee Creek fire spread over thousands of hectares.

bushfires this year is three too many. However, I am thankful that we were able to provide timely and accurate warnings to the communities impacted so they could make safe decisions for themselves and their families.

Thank you also to the communities for supporting us and each other throughout the fires. To see the generosity to our fire-fighters, especially on Christmas Day brought warmth to the heart. Thank you to all of those who have since had bake sales, fundraisers or simply donated to the CFS Foundation. That money will go towards supporting our volunteers in their time of need.

I also want to thank CFS staff and our supporting agencies, SA Metropolitan Fire Services, SA State Emergency Service, Department for Environment and Water, SAPOL and all other organisations who contributed.

The ability for those staff to get on with the job and provide results is testament to their abilities. At the moment we are continuing to help South Australians by being embedded in the State Command Centre for Health, managing the COVID-19 pandemic in this State. Only days after the request came through, our teams were at SA Health to support them as they faced a health emergency of unknown scale and duration. We knew anything we could do to support them as the control agency had to be a good thing.



Of course the work does not end here. Our volunteers continue to attend structure fires, hazardous material incident, road crashes and to assist other agencies, as their work continues.

I thank them for their amazing efforts and urge the community to continue to practice fire safety as we move into the winter months, and be careful on our roads.

I dearly hope that more normal times will resume once the Coronavirus crisis has passed but South Australians can be assured that its Firefighters remain ready and available to answer calls for help whatever the challenges we face.

Mark Jones,

Chief Officer
SA Country Fire Service

Captain Paul McKay. The Disappearing Soldier Part 2

Saranac Lake's police chief at the time, Bruce Nason, contacted McKay's banks for statements, urgently explaining that he might be missing in the wilderness, and that temperatures were 15 below zero and dropping. As the police knocked on doors in search of clues, the ink froze in their pens, and the people they interviewed were aghast at the idea of anybody being out in that cold.

McKay's bank records led to an ATM at a Greyhound terminal in Albany, where security footage revealed an image of him leaning on a counter as he bought his ticket north using a fake name. When a family member went to his apartment in Canberra, they found his military dress uniform and medals laid out at neat right angles on his bed, his army sword to its side.

Just before McKay disappeared, his family learned, he'd created profiles on LinkedIn and Facebook. McKay hated social media.

On the LinkedIn page, he specified that he'd served in Afghanistan alongside soldiers from the US Army's 10th Mountain Division, based out of Fort Drum, New York, three hours west of Saranac Lake. And he noted that he was the battle captain on duty during "Bloody Saturday," the "green-on-blue" attack of October 29, 2011, when an Afghan coalition member opened fire on a group of 12 Australian soldiers and three of their interpreters on their shared base in Uruzgan, killing four and severely wounding nine.

The Facebook profile contained only photographs – McKay on training exercises, McKay as a tourist in Asia, McKay in his service dress uniform looking handsome, and, for his profile image, a shot taken from a distance: McKay sitting atop a mountain, facing away.

Many who heard about McKay's disappearance inferred that he'd been present at the Bloody Saturday attack and had watched his colleagues die – that he had survivor's guilt or felt he'd somehow failed to protect them.

But it wasn't that simple, said two army colleagues who had been there. The attack had shaken every Australian in Uruzgan, they said, but McKay hadn't been anywhere near the outpost where the Afghan soldier opened fire. The provenance of his PTSD was something more ambiguous.

McKay had grown up in Adelaide, attending the University of Adelaide, where he earned a double degree in law and commerce. He joined the Adelaide Universities Regiment of the Army Reserve in late 2004. While most reserve officers take two to three years to complete their training, McKay finished in just 13 months. He mapped out a glorious life plan: to excel in both the reserves and the law, to become a partner in a top firm by age 30, and to parlay that into a successful career in politics or business.

His friends believed he would do it. McKay was an over-achiever – exceptionally disciplined and very smart, retaining facts so well that he suspected he had a photographic memory. In a country of sports fanatics, he played almost every game. "Many people have celebrities they look up to," said his childhood friend Peter O'Leary. "I looked up to Paul."

In 2009, McKay finished his law degree with honours and was admitted to the bar. And then, almost immediately, he quit.

He shifted his focus to the military. In most circumstances, a reserve officer transferring to the regular army would be compelled to start anew, returning to military college for another 12 to 18 months. Only the most promising reservists were allowed to bypass the process, and at the time McKay applied, there were only two openings for direct transfers available. It surprised no one when he was chosen.

Saranac Lake seems to possess a sort of geographic anonymity, and the police were puzzled by the fact that McKay

Captain Paul McKay. The Disappearing Soldier Part 2

had even ended up there. “You don’t just end up here,” said my brother James, a police officer in town, who helped with the search. The police thought if they could figure out why McKay had come, it might help them get to him in time. They uploaded a missing person flyer onto Facebook, and within days the post was shared nearly 30,000 times. None of the leads panned out.



A wooden bench with inscribed memorial plaque sits near the Trailhead at Scarface Mountain in remembrance of Capt Paul McKay. His family placed the bench there to honour him and to mark community response to his suicide.

McKay’s friends in Australia began to write, too, telling a common story of an intelligent and driven man who’d dropped progressively out of touch. They worried that McKay might not want to be found.

People go missing every year, usually unprepared hikers or hunters who wander off the trail into the dark uniformity of the forest and can’t find their way back. More recently, rangers had seen a spike in the number of people who go into the woods not for recreation, but intending to do themselves harm. Nationally, suicide had become a leading cause of death in parks and open spaces. The pattern was striking enough in the Adirondacks that rangers had requested specialised training for approaching people in mental distress.

But McKay’s disappearance seemed to move people in town far more than other cases had. The newspaper printed his boy-next-door photo, and, in this community full of English and Irish surnames, he could have been anyone’s brother or son. Locals wrote letters to the editor wondering whether McKay had somehow been drawn by Saranac Lake’s peaceful mountains, or its kindly small-town ways. They referred to him with odd formality, as “Captain McKay” or simply “the Australian soldier”, a sort of everyman wounded warrior.

Continued next month

PRIVATE TED'S HUMOUR

MY WIFE SAYS
I ONLY HAVE 2 FAULTS.
I DON'T LISTEN AND
SOMETHING ELSE...

AT MY FUNERAL
TAKE THE BOUQUET
OFF MY COFFIN AND
THROW IT INTO THE CROWD
TO SEE WHO IS NEXT



I'm going to stop asking
"How dumb can you get?"
People seem to be
taking it as a challenge!

I HAVE
~~**SEX**~~**DAILY**
DYSLEXIA

Used To Be a Bastard@Facebook.com

I had a Goldfish that could
break dance on the carpet.

But only for like 20 seconds.

And only once.

Used To Be a Bastard@Facebook.com

**Why did the cows return
to the marijuana field?**



It was the pot calling the cattle back.

**MOM SAID SHE FOUND THIS
PIPE IN MY CAR AND THAT
WE NEEDED TO HAVE A TALK...**



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc



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Hard copies of this newsletter are kindly printed by the office of the Member for Barker, the Honourable Tony Pasin MP, in Murray Bridge.

Some members don't have internet access or email, therefore the only way we can keep them informed is by snail mail hard copies. This is made much easier thanks to Tony and his hard working staff.

Thank you Tony Pasin MP and Staff.



The majority of stories and photos in this publication are also posted on our Facebook page as they come to hand. Check them out and comment as you see fit.

The comments expressed in the Editorials are not necessarily those of the RSAR Association Inc, or any other individual, except the Editor, and sometimes they aren't even his!

The Editors dog sometimes taps away on the PC keyboard, so some of these comments may be his! Naughty dog!

If any reader has a problem with any articles published in this newsletter, please advise the Editor, and he will swiftly take it up with his dog!

Thank you.

David & Topper

Editorial

Well, they said we'd be in lockdown and self isolation until at least September, but some states have started easing up already, and some folk are starting to move around a lot more than before. Are we right in saying the worst is over, or should we still obey the directions of our Government Health professionals and not become complacent? Personally I'm taking no chances and will continue my self isolation wherever practical. I only go out when absolutely necessary, and then only for essential items, so I think I'm doing my bit to stop the spread. You all have your own choices!

At my age, one of my closest contacts is my GP. "What's this lump, what's this mark, what's causing this ache, Doc?" Since the lockdown I've had two specialist appointments at the RAH cancelled, plus a visit to my podiatrist was rescheduled to July some time. I've had one telephone conference with my GP, and that was as exciting as being slapped with a wet fish! "What seems to be your problem Mr Laing?" he said. "I was hoping you could tell me that Doc!" Rather than waste his time and mine, I made an appointment to see him personally sometime in 2025, when all this kerfuffle is over! I'll have a few more ailments by then!

On another note, I can say without a word of a lie, my wife and I have survived so far without bulk buying or hoarding, and we never even looked like running out of anything. Even toilet paper! We have limited storage in our abode, so we can't stock up on things anyway, but we do buy our loo paper in 32 roll packs, and that lasts us about 3 months. I went into Coles 10 days ago, and the shelves were once again full of dunny rolls and pasta, but not alongside each other, of course. We did get stopped from buying one too many packs of mince meat though. We'd picked up 500 grams of beef mince for my "special meatloaf," 500 grams of turkey mince for a spaghetti bolognese, and 500 grams of Kangaroo mince for a roo meat pie. All different meat items, but all "minced." The lovely young thing on the checkout said we "could only have two items of mince" so we'd have to forfeit one. Really? Rather than argue that we could have been unscrupulous and taken two minced items each through the checkouts individually, we just let it go and paid for the beef and kangaroo mince. The turkey lives to gobble another day!

As you've seen on Pages 7 & 8, CFS Chief Mark Jones has penned a letter to the SA community expressing his gratitude to his volunteers and staff for their part in combatting the deadly NSW, Victoria and SA bushfires in 2019/20. Mark speaks from years of experience as a firefighter and says he has never been as proud as during our fires when he saw the best in our people. The majority of the CFS are unpaid and do this very dangerous work as a community service, and we should owe them OUR thanks as well for putting their lives on the line to protect us and our community.

That's what I think, anyway!

David Laing - Editor

ANZAC Day in YOUR world

Hi David,

Just some photos of a very different Anzac Day for everyone.

Photos of our 'display' at the top of the driveway at 6am (half mast, Ode / 'Last Post' & 'Rouse' from YouTube)...other photos at noon (flags full height) & my CMF beret. Because I joined A Coy. 10 RSAR Mt Gambier I was issued with full Scottish kilt- the works-hence Scottish beret with McKenzie tartan backing on the Infantry Corps badge.

It was a morning I will not forget.

Cheers

Bob Payne



RIGHT: RSARA Committee member Norm Tregenza sent in the photo of a sign he made up and placed in his front garden as his mark of respect for ANZAC Day 2020. Well done Norm. Lest We Forget.

LEFT: RSARA Committee member Sgt Mark Blondell pays his respects at his home on ANZAC Day. Mark is holding an illuminated candle holder he made himself from a drink bottle. Well done Blondie. We're proud of your service.



Dear David

Trevor and I experienced many very special Anzac Days together, from local dawn services and RSL breakfasts-before Trevor joined his mates for the march in the city- to some almost spiritual experiences in Europe.

In April 2001 we made our own personal tour of the French towns and war cemeteries so closely linked to Australia, as they quietly prepared to acknowledge (as they do each year), their eternal gratitude to Australians. We explored the Anzac Peninsula in Turkey only days before Anzac Day and at dusk we stood alone at Anzac Cove and as the sun set, we had our own silent commemoration.

On Anzac Day 2002 Trevor proudly marched with other Australians to London's Cenotaph before we attended a moving service in Westminster Abbey. The procession of the flags of Australia, New Zealand, Turkey and the UK, carried by members of the armed services of each country was a poignant symbol of reconciliation.

This year was very different. Because of COVID 19 the usual Memorial Services, break-



A very different Anzac Daycontinued from Page 13

fasts, marches and 'gatherings of mates' were understandably cancelled. Instead we were all encouraged to stand in quiet contemplation on our driveways or balconies.

The RSL and other groups put amazing ideas 'online' to ensure Anzac Day was not forgotten.

Trevor's grandchildren, confined to home at the time, followed an RSL video and made a wonderful wreath for their front door.

At 5.30am on Anzac Day I lit candles to shine on my home-made wreath and stood silently on my front path, mobile phone in hand and listened through ear-phones to the live ABC service from Canberra.

In the semi darkness I saw the figures of other neighbours emerge from their homes and also stand silently on their driveways, candles lighting their solemn faces. It was a very private commemoration for each of us but yet at the same time we seemed very closely connected.



The morning was beautiful. Crisp but not cold. As the dawn broke the clouds turned an amazing pink as they were lit from beneath by the rays of the rising sun. The familiar Australian bird song was welcome and as we stood in the breaking light the sound of the Last Post drifted through the air from a nearby memorial or street gathering.



Learning about Poppa's medals



Lotti and Arthur with their ANZAC Day tribute

I took the opportunity to think of all those Australians who have fought bravely throughout the years and in different theatres of war, ensuring the quality of life we now take for granted here in Australia. There has probably never been a more important time to call Australia home than in our present circumstances.

After the ABC live broadcasts finished, I noticed that my neighbours and I lingered a while before returning into our own homes.

It had been a different but very moving experience.

That evening as they readied for bed Trevor's grandchildren, Lotti and Arthur were introduced to their Poppa's medals before snuggling up to share a picture book story about the significance of Anzac Day.



Heather Phillips—RSARA member

Editors Note: Heather is the wife of the late Major Trevor Phillips, my old OC from A Coy 10 RSAR back in the 70's. Trevor, a long time member of the RSAR Association passed away in July 2018, but his legacy is carried on by Heather and family. Heather is an Associate Life Member, and we thank her and the other members who took the time to share their special ANZAC Day 2020 experiences with us. Every ANZAC Day we recite the Ode, which ends with "We Will Remember Them." We most certainly will, as long as people like Heather, Bob, Norm and other Australians continue to display their patriotism and fly the flag. Thank you.

David Laing - Editor

The Boy in the Bag



On Christmas Day 1918, as No. 4 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps were mopping up in Belgium, a small French orphan attached himself to them as their mascot. They estimated his age at 7 years but he could have been younger than that.

The time came for the Squadron to be demobbed and, although they made extensive enquiries in a war-torn France, they could find no relatives to care for him. Both his parents were dead, his mother killed by bombing and his father in the early days of the war trying to protect his country.

Tim Tovell and his brother, Ted, both mechanics, from Jandowae, Queensland decided that Henri would have to go with them back to Australia. Tim was older than most of the Squadron, married with a family at home in Queensland. Sadly, his letter to his wife telling her of the problem and asking her for permission to bring the boy home crossed with one from her to say that his own son of three had died of polio. She later wrote again, eager to meet Henri and have him in their family, so the brothers' plans took shape.

It was not going to be easy as neither the military nor the French authorities would have allowed them to do such a thing. With the help of some of the men they devised a scheme which entailed Henri curling up in a sack, disguised with a wooden frame, which Tim carried on his back.



At Hurdcott, Tim demonstrating how Henri fitted in the sack

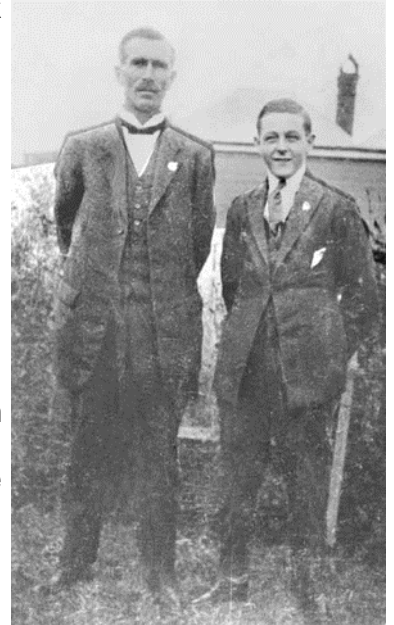
The Boy in the Bag continued



Tim's personal belongings were spread amongst his comrades who were pleased to help as they had all grown fond of the boy. The journey took several hours but Henri remained as quiet as a mouse until they at last could open the sack on the train from Southampton to Salisbury, then on to Hurdcott Camp at Fovant.

The Flying Corps spoilt him dreadfully, buying him toys and a small replica of the uniform he had grown to love. Unfortunately, they also taught him less admirable things such as playing 'Two Up' which he loved. One day he was called before the CO and reprimanded. He was much too young for gambling. He continued to join the men at the games but in the capacity of mascot and 'good luck charm', the men rewarding him with pennies when they won. He accumulated such an amount that Tim had to open a Post Office Savings account for him!

Then, at long last the news came of their repatriation to Australia. By now everyone knew about the 'sack escapade' so that could not be used again. It was one of the young officers who suggested a sports equipment hamper partially filled with cricket bats and entertainment costumes. The officer boarded the ship first and threw his cabin key down to the waiting soldiers who marched aboard saying that they had to deliver the important hamper to the entertainment officer's cabin. Again it worked and, when the ship was well out to sea they let the little boy out of his cramped concealment. Of course, it was not long before the lower decks knew what



Tim with Henri, as he prepares to leave for training in Melbourne

had happened and eventually the story spread to the upper decks as well.

It so happened that the Governor of Queensland was also returning with his family. He enjoyed the story and admired the men's ingenuity. From Perth he wired his government in Queensland to have the necessary papers ready for their arrival in Sydney where Henri finally landed to a hero's welcome.

Tim adopted him and, after his schooling was over, Henri opted to join the R.A.A.F. (as it had become). He started as a civilian employee because he could not join the armed forces as an alien and could not be naturalised as an Australian citizen until he was 21 years old. He began training as an aeroplane mechanic, following Tim's wartime occupation.

A few weeks before his 21st birthday Henri was killed in a motorbike accident. No. 4 Squadron made a collection and erected a fine memorial stone crowned with a bronze figure of the small, lost waif they had first known.

The whole story of Henri can be read in *Young Digger* by Anthony Hill.

Pictures by kind permission of the Australian War Memorial Museum, Canberra, Australia.
RA

At Right: Henri's grave



Forwarded to "Sitrep, Over!" by David Mercer, SAM-RA

From a REAL Expert!



If you only read one thing today, let it be this.....

I talked with a man today, an 80 plus year old man, who lives not 100 meters from me. I asked him if there was anything I can get him while this Coronavirus scare was gripping the World.

He simply smiled, looked away and said:

"Let me tell you what I need! I need to believe, at some point, this country my generation fought for... I need to believe this nation we handed safely to our children and their children...

I need to know this generation will quit being a bunch of sissies...that they RESPECT what they've been given...that they've earned what others sacrificed for."

I wasn't sure where the conversation was going or if it was going anywhere at all. So, I sat there, quietly observing.

"You know, I was a little boy during WWII. Those were scary days. We didn't know if we were going to be speaking English, German or Japanese at the end of the war. There was no certainty, no guarantees like Australian's enjoy today.

And no home went without sacrifice or loss. Every house, up and down every street, had someone in harm's way. Maybe their Daddy was a soldier, maybe their son was a sailor, maybe it was an uncle. Sometimes it was the whole damn family...fathers, sons, uncles...

Having someone you love, sent off to war...it wasn't less frightening than it is today. It was scary as Hell. If anything, it was more frightening. We didn't have battle front news. We didn't have email or mobile phones. You sent them away and you hoped...you prayed. You may not hear from them for months, if ever. Sometimes a mother was getting her son's letters the same day Dad was comforting her over their child's death.

And we sacrificed. You couldn't buy things. Everything was rationed. You were only allowed so much milk per month, only so much bread, toilet paper. EVERYTHING was restricted for the war effort. And what you weren't using, what you didn't need, things you threw away, they were saved and sorted for the war effort. My generation was the original recycling movement in Australia and England.

And we had viruses back then...serious viruses. Things like polio, measles, and such. It was nothing to walk to school and pass a house or two that was quarantined. We didn't shut down our schools. We didn't shut down our cities. We carried on, without masks, without hand sanitiser. And do you know what? We persevered. We overcame. We didn't attack our Prime Minister, we came together. We rallied around the flag for the war. Thick or thin, we were in it to win. And we would lose more boy's in an hour of combat than we lose in entire wars today."

WARNING!

RATIONING BREACHES

Under the National Security (Rationing) Regulations it is an offence to buy or accept meat without coupons, or any meat in excess of the amount to which you are entitled for coupons surrendered.

For such an offence a fine up to £100 or imprisonment for up to 6 months can be imposed on both customer and trader.

Issued by the Commonwealth Rationing Committee in cooperation with the Meat & Allied Trades Federation



Rationing means a fair share for all of us



STOP HOARDING! IT'S NOT WHO WE ARE!

He slowly looked away again. Maybe I saw a small tear in the corner of his eye. Then he continued:

"Today's kids don't know sacrifice. They think a sacrifice is not having coverage on their phone while they freely drive across the country. Today's kids are selfish and spoiled. In my generation, we looked out for our elders. We helped out with single mum's whose husband's were either at war or dead from war. Today's kids rush to the store, buying everything they can...no concern for anyone but themselves....! It's shameful the way Australian people behave these days. None of them deserve the sacrifices their granddad's made. Like the Prime Minister said, it's not who we are! Stop hoarding!

So, no I don't need anything. I appreciate your offer but, I know I've been through worse things than this virus. But maybe I should be asking you, what can I do to help you? Do you have enough Coke to get through this, enough steak? Will you be able to survive with 58 channels on your tv?"

I smiled, fighting back a tear of my own...now humbled by a man in his 80's. All I could do was thank him for the history lesson, leave my number for emergency and leave with my ego firmly tucked in my rear.

I talked to a man today. A REAL man. A man from an era long gone and forgotten. We will never understand the sacrifices. We will never fully earn their sacrifices. But we should work harder to learn about them.. learn from them...to respect them...

Take care. Lest We Forget



RSAR Association - Financial Members as at April 16, 2020

Honorary Members

Wilson	Neil
Lipman	Ben
Morgenthaler	Peter

Life Members

Acton	Chris
Ayles	Jeff
Beckett	David
Blackmore	Bill
Boscence	Bob
Bourne	Colin
Brookes	Philip
Burnard	Trent
Burns	Wayne
Carnachan	Ian
Dart	John
Davey	Trevor
Elliott	Graham
Gaborit	Lyndon
Hawking	Don
Haynes	Malcolm
Hogan	Mark
Hook	Alan
Hope	David
Horseman	Ian
Hudson	Rick
Jackson	Aaron
James	Grant
Johnson	Barry
Klopf	Alex
Laing	David
Lakin	Bruce
Marlin	Robin
Moore	Terry
Paul	John
Pollard	Barry
Sanderson	Max
Stewart	Robin
Stewien	Peter
Vella	Joe
Waters	Ian
Westover	Rhys
Wilson	Graham
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg

Associate Life Members

Field	Shirley
Laing	June
Phillips	Heather
Sanderson	Lorraine

Members

Abel	Colin
Abraham	Michael
Attenborough	Geoff
Bampton	Michael
Beames	Rodney
Bennett	Christian
Blondell	Mark
Bras	Riley
Brown	Bruce
Burnard	Saxon
Burton	Ray
Buttars	Erik
Carpenter	Ian
Carlisle	Lesley-Ann
Collins	Peter
Cooke	Nat
Cotton	Bob
Cram	Kevin
Demosani	Tony
Dew	Trevor
Domanski	Glenn
Dunn	Bob
Dunn	Peter
Eva	Keith
Ewens	Mimi
Faunt	Joshua
Faquiri	Reshad
Foy	Erin
Gatley	Graham
Gill	Graham
Goodwin	Graham
Gordon	Frank
Harris	Lachlan
Harrison	John
Harrison	Keith
Harrison	Nigel
Hawkins	Des
Heath	Jonathan
Hill	Max
Jones	Brett
Loveder	Peter
Matchett	Bill
McCulloch	Don
Mclver	Bill
Mitchell	Barry
Morony	Frank
Mulroney	Dennis
Oakley	Andrew
O'Daly	Ryan
Orrock	Alan
Parslow	Howard
Parsonage	James
Pascoe	Michael

Members (ctd.)

Payne	Bob
Pexton	Timothy
Phillips	Colin Rex
Portakiewicz	Anthony
Portakiewicz	David
Preece	Brian
Rado	Stephen
Ramm	Hank
Ranger	Denis
Rathmann	John
Rathmann	Norm
Rijken	Paul
Robertson	James
Rossetti	Lee
Smith	Ryan
Sage	Andrew
Sanders	Ashley
Scott	Rhys
Slocombe	Leigh
Standing	Michael
Tasker	David
Thomas	David
Thomson	Jim
Tiller	Garth
Tregenza	Norm
Trezise	George
Tucker	Belinda
Wheeler	Chris

Associate Members

Abel	Karen
Beames	Cheryl
Carnachan	Dom
Elliott	Julie
Hook	Philippa
Johnson	Margaret
Toy	Jill
Tregenza	Lyn
Winger	Kathleen

Honorary Members	3
Life Members	34
Serving Life Members	5
Associate Life Members	4
Members	59
Serving Members	22
Associate Members	10
Total financial members	136

Prepaid Members

2020/21	#
2021/22	Σ
2022/23	^

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP***Membership Category*

<input type="checkbox"/> Full Membership \$20 (Former member of the RSAR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Serving Military Member Must have served with the RSAR or a sub unit. FREE 1st year. \$10 thereafter while still serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Non Voting Associate Member \$10 (Spouses, non former members of RSAR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (Once only payment) FULL Member \$200 ASSOCIATE Member \$100

My Details

Full Name:	Postal Address:
Date of Birth:	Email:
Mobile No:	How did you hear about the Association?
Period of Service / / to / /	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Serving Member of the RSAR or Sub Unit
What date did you first join the RSARA / /	Have you been a member since then? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Method of Payment

<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque or Money Order - Payable to The Treasurer RSAR Association Inc 20 Katoomba Rd Beaumont SA 5066	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Funds Transfer Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc BSB 633 000 Account 1616 585 88 Include your name as an identifier								
<input type="checkbox"/> CASH (In person to the Committee)	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (The Fire & Forget option) <table border="1"> <tr><td>Account Name:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bank:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>BSB:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Acct #</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Funds will be deducted at the start of each financial year and can be ceased on written notification to the Secretary</p>	Account Name:		Bank:		BSB:		Acct #	
Account Name:									
Bank:									
BSB:									
Acct #									

☐ I understand that receipt of this application constitutes my acceptance of the Associations Rules as set down in the Constitution found at the website address below. I also authorise the processing of my preferred method of payment and acknowledge that I may be required to provide proof of past or current military service as required.

Website: www.rsara.asn.auPlease send this completed application, with any proof of service to the RSAR Association Secretary at davidlaing49@bigpond.com

The Christmas Packages debacle



In November last year members of the RSAR Association committee gathered at Keswick Barracks to wrap and address Christmas Care Packages containing dried fruit and locally grown nuts to send off to our 10/27 Battle Group personnel serving on deployments during the Christmas period. We published the story and even received thank you cards and letters from the soldiers on the front line. This made us feel warm and fuzzy knowing we had done our bit for the Regiment, yet again. Christmas came and Christmas went, and then we received (in February) a letter AND 7 parcels back through the mailing system. In a nutshell (pun intended) we were flabbergasted that the 7 parcels were rejected because they were a few grams overweight!!

President Rod fired off a very strongly worded letter to the Minister for Defence Darren Chester in Canberra, and after much too-ing and fro-ing we've received the attached reply from the Department of Defence. It goes some way to apologise for the return of the parcels and also makes some effort to advise what we need to do in the future to ensure our parcels get through. (I told Beamsey that I'd escort them with a shotgun, but he reckoned they wouldn't post me as I'm overweight!)

I recall a time when the Australian Postal System joined the Wharfies and stopped processing mail and other items, including beer supplies to our men and women in Vietnam, just to make a name for themselves. Can you think of anything worse than a deployed soldier being denied mail from home and a cold beer after 3 weeks patrol in the jungle? A couple of phrases were coined, like "Whack a Wharfie" and "Punch a Postie." I wondered at the time why Mr Mole, our local bicycle Postman had a black eye. For 3 weeks!

It should never come to that again, but obviously there are people in the system who can't think outside of the grid square, and use some plain common sense, or CDF as we used to say!

Here's the response below!

UNCLASSIFIED

Good morning Mr Beames,

I am writing to confirm that we have received the parcel. Thank you for sending it through it has assisted us in troubleshooting the causes of this issue. Moreover, I think I have a way forward to ensure we reduce (if not remove entirely) the chance of any of your future packages being returned in the same manner.

With regard to the return of these particular parcels there seems to be a few factors at play, which will probably be the case for the other parcels:

1. The Defence subsidised mail system,
 2. Changes to AUSPOST parcel product line,
 3. AUSPOST policy on charging based on Cubic Weight, and
- Potential confusion at the local AUSPOST about these three factors.

When AUSPOST began to roll out its new line of parcels in Sep 19, it created some confusion as the new line does not have a 2kg box. AUSPOST removed the BX2 parcel (1.7 kg Cubic Weight) which was the parcel traditionally used for sending mail to deployed troops in compliance with the guidelines of the Defence subsidised mail system. Whilst the BX2 may be gone, the Defence subsidised mail system remains

unchanged, Defence will cover the cost of post to AFPO that do not exceed 2kg in actual weight or 2 kg cubed weight.

Options available to families, friends and Associations like your own to send parcels to deployed personnel now include:

The new AUSPOST medium parcel (1.3kg cubic weight) (I have attached a photo),

The new satchel or padded mailer not exceeding 2kg actual weight, or

BYO packaging that does not exceed 2kg actual weight or 2kg cubic weight, which would restrict the parcel dimensions to a suggested 310 x 225 x 100mm

Any parcels that exceed 2kg actual weight or 2kg cubic weight will be subject to the AUSPOST charging policy based on cubic weight as detailed on the AUSPOST Shopmate website: <https://shopmate.auspost.com.au/our-rates/calculating-parcel-weight> .Defence has updated briefings, products and websites to reflect this new guidance. The detail above is reflected at <https://www.defence.gov.au/Events/SupportTheTroops/> .

With all that background and the note that was attached to the return parcels, I suspect that cause of the return of the seven parcels from your Association may have been confusion at the local AUSPOST about those aforementioned factors. The note that was returned with the seven boxes that stated “1 kg ... will cost too much to send...Therefore we are not authorised to send” is not in line with Defence’s subsidised mail system.

Moving forward, for future parcels to be sent by your Association I recommend the use of one of the three options listed above. This should reduce the chance of any further issues with their delivery to deployed personnel.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please let me know.

Regards,

Ben Shaw

Lieutenant Colonel

Staff Officer Grade One - Operations

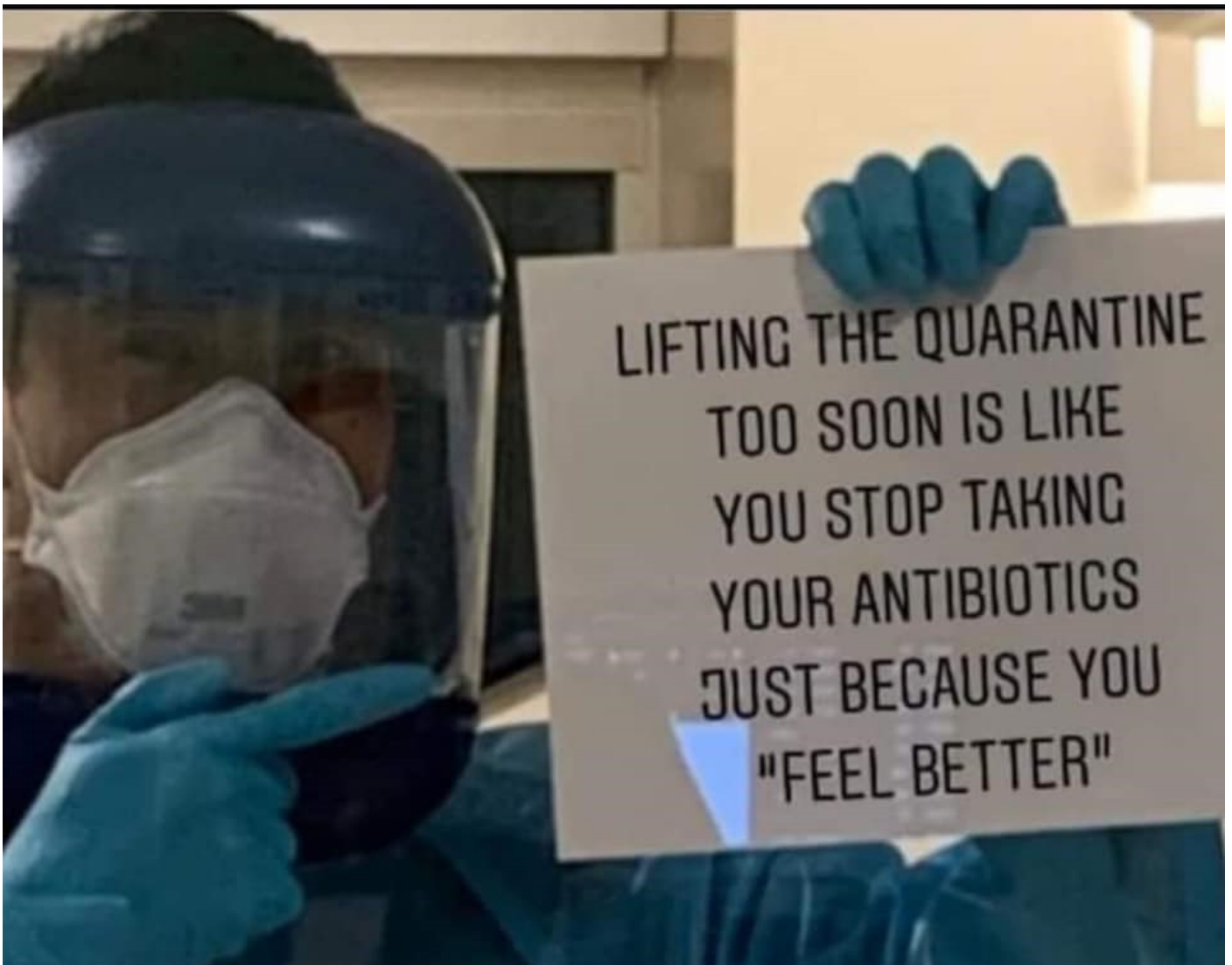
Joint Logistics Command

Campbell Park Offices

CAMPBELL ACT 2610







**Or.... "The Parachute
has slowed our
descent, so we can
now take it off!"**

History repeats itself. Came across this poem written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Pandemic.

This is Timeless....

And people stayed at home
 And read books
 And listened
 And they rested
 And did exercises
 And made art and played
 And learned new ways of being
 And stopped and listened
 More deeply
 Someone meditated, someone prayed
 Someone met their shadow
 And people began to think differently
 And people healed.
 And in the absence of people who
 Lived in ignorant ways
 Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
 The earth also began to heal
 And when the danger ended and
 People found themselves
 They grieved for the dead
 And made new choices
 And dreamed of new visions
 And created new ways of living
 And completely healed the earth
 Just as they were healed.



Thursday, November 7th, 1918

CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF KELOWNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, in order to prevent the spread of Spanish Influenza, all Schools, public and private, Churches, Theatres, Moving Picture Halls, Pool Rooms and other places of amusement, and Lodge meetings, are to be closed until further notice.

All public gatherings consisting of ten or more are prohibited.

D. W. SUTHERLAND,
 Mayor.

Kelowna, B.C.,
 19th October, 1918.



Sent in by member Lee Rossetti