

"Sitrep, Over!"



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

Editor - David Laing 0407 791 822

June 2017

Inside this issue:

War Stories	1
The USA in Vietnam	2
From the Sidelines	3
CPL Dave's Page	4
Contact Us	5
Next Luncheon	6
MEMBERS LIST	8

The RSAR Association has 20 members without email access, and for those we send out hard copies for their perusal.

The hard copies of this newsletter are kindly printed by the Murray Bridge office of Tony Pasin MP, Federal Member for Barker. The Association thanks Mr Pasin and his staff for their generous support, without which we would have to charge more for Annual Fees. Postage, printing and delivery of this newsletter all come at a price, and someone has to pick up the bill.

True War Stories that should be movies

The Night Witches

Made up of only women, the 588th Night Bomber Regiment was trained for bombing missions behind German lines, flying 1920s-era planes built of wood and canvas with no radio or radar, their bombs held to the wings by wire. This construction gave the planes the advantage of flying below radar and surprising the enemy in the dead of night.

Flying 15 to 18 missions per night (each!), their planes often returned, "riddled with bullets," according to Nadezhda (Nadia) Popova. Enlisting at only 19 years old, Nadia's motive was revenge: for her brother killed on the front, her home taken over by German soldiers, and her town destroyed by German aircrafts. When shot down in the North Caucasus in July 1942, she met another shot down pilot who would become her husband when the war was over. Lt. Col. Popova flew 852 missions and was shot down several times in the freezing cold. She was lucky though; she watched several of her friends' burning planes fall from the sky.

The regiment, unofficially known as "Stalin's Falcons," were given a much more chilling moniker by the Germans: Nachthexen, or "The Night Witches." Sounds like the perfect name for a thriller, doesn't it?

Hanns Scharff: The Gentle Interrogator.

Hanns Scharff was not meant to be part of the German army. He lived in South Africa with his family, but was drafted when visiting Germany when the war broke out. His wife convinced a general to put him with interpreters instead of front lines, but through a series of mistakes and coincidences, he became the lead interrogator for the Allied pilots felled in France and Germany. Having seen a prisoner abused when he was an assistant, he vowed against doing the same. Instead, his technique was unique in using kindness and friendly conversation to extract information.

Scharff's success in using kindness to get what he wanted has been recently studied and compared to other interrogation techniques. It's been found that not only does one tend to get more information and more accurate information from the prisoner; the prisoner is often unaware of how much information they've given away. Imagine a movie that explored this unique approach rather than 24's techniques. After the war, Scharff divorced and moved to the United States, marrying an American and finding success in a new career as a mosaic artist. One of his works appears in the Magic Kingdom Castle at Disney World.

Major Charity Adams vs. The Buzz Bomb.

The American 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was the only all-female all-black army corps overseas in WWII. Their journey started off with a bang: a Buzz Bomb was their welcoming committee upon their arrival in London in February 1945. The battalion was especially loyal to their leader, Major Charity Adams. A visiting American general, displeased upon inspection that the Major's whole unit was not present, threatened to replace her with a white lieutenant.

"Over my dead body," she answered. Her battalion agreed: if he intended to court-martial her, he'd have to court-martial all of them. He apologized immediately.

Their work wasn't finished after the war—they were sent to Rouen, France, to move letters around con-

Some sad facts about Americans in the Vietnam War.

A little history most people will never know. Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 61 years since the first casualty.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam ..

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam .

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.



The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most people who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were friends, fathers, Husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

Sent in by RSARA member Lee Rossetti



Some members march on ANZAC Day, others support the Regiment from the sidelines. Major Don Field (retired) has marched on many occasions and even led the Association on some ANZAC Day marches. This year he apologised for not marching, but cheered the group from the sidelines. He also sent in a little snippet of his daily life. Thanks Don

G'Day David

I am now as deaf as a post but I thought some of the Members might like to hear this true story.

Shirl and I were shopping in our local Foodland and had just about finished. Shirl then said "I wonder where they keep their fake diamonds". I said why would Foodland keep fake diamonds? Shirl stared at me in disbelief and said "I said flaked almonds!" Woe is me.

Regards

Don Field

Continued from Page 1

They should be Movies

tinental Europe. The welcome they received in Europe lay in stark contrast to their treatment back home: the French people applauded them as they paraded through Paris, and they received first-class treatment at the luxurious hotel they were put in. African-American soldiers greeted them upon their arrival and helped them unload, unpack, and even made their beds for them, leaving cards with their names and units on the pillows.

Where is our Netflix TV series to binge-watch on these ladies? It would fit right in with Bomb Girls and The Bletchley Circle.

The Ghost Army.

The 23rd Headquarters Special Troop soldier unit, also known as "The Ghost Army," used fakery and misinformation to deceive the enemy throughout the European theatre. Full of artists, illustrators, and radio and sound guys plucked from New York and Philadelphia art schools in January 1944, the 1,100 man unit often pretended to be much larger groups with the use of 500-pound speakers that could be heard at a 15-mile radius. They sent fake radio transmissions to distract from actual missions and deployed handmade blow-up tanks and fake observation planes to round out their schemes. They marked their tanks with chalk and sewed on fake patches to pretend to be other units and hide from enemy spies.

Prevented from talking about their experience before the reports became declassified, the majority of the American army was unaware of their existence until former soldier and then-illustrator Arthur Shilstone wrote about it in 1985. While the PBS broadcast a documentary on the group in 2013, the surreal story is ripe for a movie treatment.

Vera Atkins: The Ruthless Interrogator.

Vera Atkins placed 400 agents out to the field, training them for months, teaching them the ropes and accounting for every detail of their new identities. So when the war ended in 1945 with over 100 agents unaccounted for, she made it her personal mission to solve the stories of these missing women herself. She muscled her way into officially joining the British War Crimes Commission. She was known for her ruthless interrogation skills: she notes in one report that she had the commandant of Auschwitz admitting to his horrible crimes before lunch. Atkins was part of several such investigations, but she also used the information to forward her search for her spies. Carved names on jail-cell walls, sketches from a former Vogue sketch artist who'd survived multiple concentration camps, intercepted letters: all were recorded and used as part of her investigation.

When she returned to the United States, she focused on publicizing and memorializing her forgotten agents, so much so that she appears briefly in some of the movies made of their lives. But Atkins was a secretive woman, and no movie has yet been made about her incredible tenacity and loyalty to these agents.

A young Army officer was severely wounded in the head by a grenade, but the only visible permanent injury was that both of his ears were amputated. Since his remaining hearing was sufficient, he remained in the Army.

Many years later he eventually rose to the rank of Major General. He was, however, quite sensitive about his appearance. One day the General was interviewing three servicemen who were candidates for his headquarters staff.

The first was a Captain, a tactical helicopter pilot, and it was a great interview. At the end of the interview the General asked him, 'Do you notice anything different about me?'

The young officer answered, 'Why, yes Sir, I couldn't help but notice that you have no ears.'

The general was displeased with his lack of tact and threw him out.

The second was with a Navy Lieutenant and he was even better. The General then asked him the same question, 'Do you notice anything different about me?'

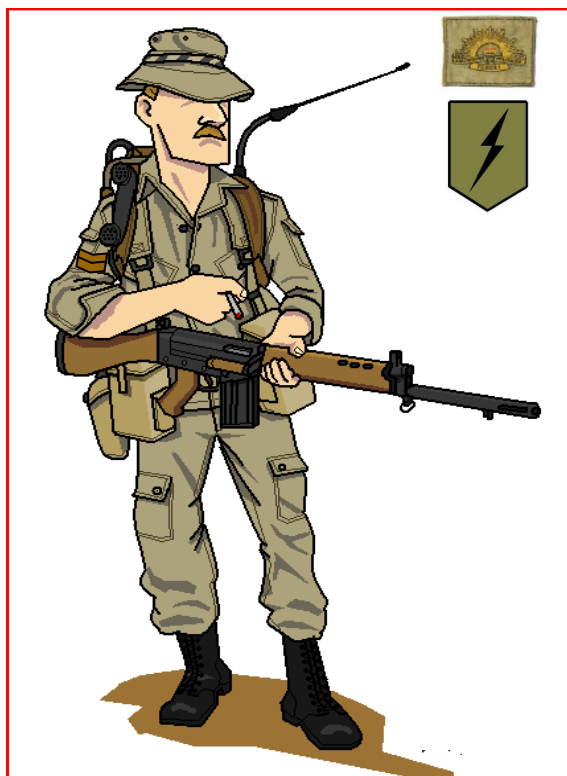
He replied sheepishly, 'Well, sir, you have no ears.' The General also threw him out.

The third interview was with an old Sergeant Major, an Infantryman and staff-trained NCO. He was smart, articulate, fit, looked sharp, and seemed to know more than the two officers combined. The General liked this guy and went ahead with the same question, 'Do you notice anything different about me?'

To his surprise the Sergeant Major said, 'Yes, sir, you wear contact lenses.'

The General was very impressed and thought, 'What an incredibly observant NCO, and he didn't mention my ears.' He asked, 'Sergeant Major, how do you know I wear contacts?'

"Well, sir," the soldier replied, 'it's pretty hard to wear glasses with no bloody ears.'



CPL Daves' **Page**

Laugh till you leak...it
just makes it funnier.



**I'm going to retire and
live off my savings.
What I'll do the second
day, I have no idea.**

**TODAY HAS BEEN
CANCELLED.
GO BACK TO BED**

CONTACT US!-

**The Secretary, David Laing,
RSAR Association Inc
Riverglen Marina, RSD 3152A
White Sands SA 5253**



0407 791 822

davidlaing49@bigpond.com

We're on the Web

www.rsara.asn.au



**Find us on
Facebook**



The newest addition to our Merchandise range is this very attractive Stubby Holder, manufactured right here in Adelaide SA. The Association looked around for some time to find a local company to fill our order, and needed to look no further than Soupcan Stubby Holders at Plympton, in Adelaide.

We offer them for only **\$6 each** (plus postage of \$2 per individual item) and they make a very attractive gift or give away to your mates.

To order just contact the Secretary, and he will pass the order down the logistics chain, with delivery of around 10 days. The more you order, the less freight you'll pay, so put your order in now. Payment details on page 7.



Married 55 years - Priceless! ..

After being married for 55 years this month, I took a careful look at my wife one day and said, "Fifty-five years ago we had a cheap house, a junk car, slept on a sofa-bed and watched a 10-inch black and white TV. But hey I got to sleep every night with a hot 23-year-old girl.

Now ... I have a \$750,000 home, a \$45,000 car, a nice big bed and a large screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 77-year-old woman. So I said to my wife "it seems to me that you're not holding up your side of things."

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 23-year-old girl and she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap house, driving a junk car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black and white TV.

Aren't older women great?

They really know how to solve an old guy's problems!



"Dogs" Kearney

The **Mystery of Celtic Wood** refers to the apparent disappearance without trace of 71 men of the 10th Battalion of the 1st Australian Division during a diversionary attack on German positions in Celtic Wood, near Passchendaele in West Flanders, during the Battle of Poelcappelle (9 October 1917) in the First World War.

Official Army reports of the action state that investigations have failed to account for the fate of 37 men of the 10th Battalion. German records contain no mention of the attack, which led to speculation that the men were massacred and buried in a mass grave. Visitors to the site today are still given this explanation by guides. Rumours persist that the

men had simply walked into a mist and disappeared. Some investigators attribute the lack of record of the missing to confusion, mis-reporting and clerical error.

Adelaide authors Robert Kearney and Chris Henschke - both veterans of their own wars - have rifled through the sepia pages of war diaries and action reports to piece together the real story of Celtic Wood. What emerges is not a mystery; just a plain old, garden variety Australian war tragedy.

A story of brave men sacrificed to divert attention from the main British attack. A feint, just like Gallipoli's murderous charge at The Nek as depicted in Peter Weir's film, or the butchery at Fromelles.

Robert "Dogs" Kearney will talk at the next RSARA luncheon about his and Chris Henschke's research on the lost soldiers of Celtic Wood. Delving into the many myths and rumours, they expel them and lay to rest the mystery surrounding the missing Diggers.

Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc Luncheon

When: Sunday 25th June 2017

Timings: Midday to 1500 hrs

Where: Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Road

Luncheon: \$16.80 per head (payable on the day)

Bookings Essential through Norm Tregenza on normlyn@bigpond.com or 0412 804 779

You don't have to be a member to attend, but you DO need to reserve your seats

Member John Harrison from WA ordered and received his shipment of Stubby Holders, and writes, *"Received with thanks today Rod and put into use within hours. Cheers John Harrison, Perth WA."*



PRO PATRIA

**ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA
REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

You can order and pay for your new stubby holders by the following methods:

Send a cheque or money order to

"The Treasurer, David Hope

RSAR Association Inc

20 Katoomba Rd Beaumont, SA 5066"

OR

Payment may be made by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to:-

BSB 015 211

Account 482441406

In the name of Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.

*Please remember to include an identifier such as **your surname**, so the payment can be matched to you.*

\$6 EACH plus \$2 Postage each up to 6 items. Order 6 and you can have them for \$30 plus postage of \$6.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR ARMY MUSEUM AT KESWICK

Wanted. 2 x Volunteer staff required to assist the RSAR Historical Collection every Wednesday 0830 to 1430hrs (Approx.) at the Keswick Barracks Army Museum.

Must have an interest in Regimental history and the ability to assist with all museum work.

Contact Des Hawkins on 0434 676 050

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR 2019 SCOUT JAMBOREE

Hi David ,

*Hope email finds you well . We are looking for upstanding older gentlemen (I use the term loosely) to assist in the distribution of rations to the scouts patrols from 2 X Q stores over about 12 days beginning **3rd January 2019**.*

Our illustrious leader Rod Beames has put his hat in the ring to help us. He is an ex Scout and knows that these young people are Australian's future Leaders and we need to foster the Leadership qualities and skills that they would not usually learn in the home or school environment. If you could put the word around I would be most grateful. My contact details are on the bottom of this email .

Warm Regards Colin.

Colin Abel

Catering Director

25th Australian Scout Jamboree (AJ2019)

Mobile: [0417 599 665](tel:0417599665)

Email: catering@aj2019.com.au

www.aj2019.com.au

MEMBERS

Abareh, Wadi **SM**
 Abel, Colin
 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
 Bourne, Ian **SM**
 Boath, Ian
 Boothroyd, Lincoln **SM**
 Boscence, Bob
 Bras, Riley **SM**
 Broadbent, Robert **SM**
 Brookes, Phil
 Brown, Bruce
 Brown, Harry
 Burnard, Trent **SM CO**
 Burton, Ray
 Buttars, Erik
 Campbell, Wenona **BAND**
 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
 Dew, Trevor
 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**
 Ferguson, Shane **BAND**

Field, Don
 Flanagan, Ted
 Fortune, Nigel **BAND**
 Gaborit, Lyndon **LM**
 Gallagher, Erin **BAND**
 Genovese, John
 Gibson, Lindsay
 Giles, John
 Gill, Graham
 Gilmore, Graham
 Goodwin, Graham **SM**
 Gordon, Frank
 Hardy, Robert **SM**
 Harley, Peter
 Harrington, Malcolm
 Harrison, John
 Hawking, Don
 Hawkins, Des
 Heath, Jonathon **BAND**
 Haynes, Malcolm **SM**
 Haynes, Scott
 Hewitt, Emily **BAND**
 Hogan, Mark **LM**
 Hook, Alan **LM CoM**
 Hope, David **CoM**
 Horseman, Ian **LM**
 Hudson, Mick
 Hudson, Rick
 Humphrys, Jesse **SM CoM**
 James, Grant **SM**
 Jeffrey, Scott **SM**
 Johnson, Barry **LM**
 Jolly, David
 Jones, Brett
 Justin, Trent
 Keenan, Alan
 Kilford, Brian
 Klopff, Alex **LM**
 Klopff, Paul
 Koop, Joshua **BAND**
 Laing, David **LM CoM**
 Lakin, Bruce **LM**
 Lampard, Ross
 Lee, Bob
 Lee, Pat
 Lloyd, Elmer
 Longstaff, Paul
 Loveder, Peter
 Main, Brian
 Marcus, Ray
 Marlin, Robin **LM**
 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
 Moore, Jeffrey

Moore, Terry **LM**
 Moschis, James **SM**
 Munro, Ron
 Oliver, Peter
 Orrock, Alan
 Ockenden, Marc
 Oswald, John
 Pach, Chol **SM**
 Paul, John
 Perkins, Bob
 Pollard, Barry
 Portakiewicz, Anthony **BAND**
 Portakiewicz, David **BAND CoM**
 Phillips, Colin
 Phillips, Trevor
 Payne, Bob
 Parslow, Howard
 Parsonage, James
 Preece, Brian
 Rado, Stephen
 Ranger, Denis
 Rathmann, John
 Rathmann, Norm **CoM**
 Rijken, Paul
 Ramm, Hank
 Robertson, Jim
 Rorie, Graham **SM**
 Rossetti, Lee
 # Russack, Jon
 Sage, Andrew
 Salamon, Peter
 Sanders, Ashley **SM**
 Sanderson, Max
 Sands, Mike
 Sexton, Mark **SM**
 Slater, Ian
 Slattery, Kimberly **BAND**
 Sniedze, Julie **BAND**
 Sprigg, Rob
 Staker, Cameron **SM**
 Standing, Michael **CoM**
 Stone, Eddie
 Strain, Doug
 Steer, Phil
 Stewart, Rob **LM**
 Stewien, Peter **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**
 Zuromski, Paul **SM**

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Abel, Karen
 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
 Parkin, Audrey
 Phillips, Heather
 Sanderson, Lorraine
 Tregenza, Lyn
 Winger, Kathleen

HONORARY MEMBERS

T. Burnard CO 10/27 RSAR
 J. Moulton ADJT 10/27 RSAR
 B. Lipman RSM 10/27 RSAR

LM denotes **LIFE MEMBER**
SM denotes **SERVING ADF MEMBER**

BAND denotes serving 10/27
 Band member

Denotes **NEW MEMBER**

226 members

as at 14/5/17

Welcome to
Jon Russack, our
 newest member, who
 served with 27 Bn,
 3/9th LH (SAMR) and
 10 RSAR Band

WELCOME