



JANUARY 2014

Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc (Metro)

Points of interest

- Our Bravest soldier from the "Fighting 10th Bn"
- RSARA Merchandise available. See the list and the prices
- Members List continues to grow. Now at an all time high!
- Cpl Knuckles has gone AWOL. Meet his idle replacement!!
- Meet the Committee of Management

Newsletter Edited
by David Laing

0407 791 822

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

3

Just Soldiers LCpl Charles Bunney

Bluey & Curly 5
Coming soon

RSARA CABARET
All the photos 5

RSARA Committee of
Management 6

"Missing in Action"7 Guest Speaker at February 16 Luncheon, MAJ Jeff Ayles (Retd) JP

Members List 13 175 & STILL growing

End Of Year BBO 8

I have the body of a God... Buddha!

Arthur Seaforth Blackburn VC

Our most famous soldier

Arthur Seaforth Blackburn was born on 25 November 1892 at Woodville, South Australia. He was educated at Pulteney Grammar School, the Collegiate School of St Peter and the University of Adelaide

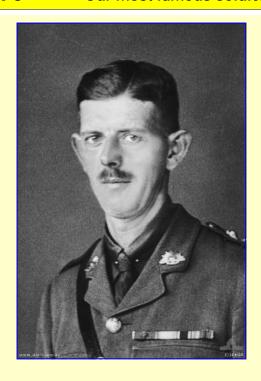
Gallipoli

In 1914, Private Blackburn, a 21-year-old lawyer from Adelaide, was among the first to enlist in the "Fighting 10th" Battalion, and as a battalion scout he was among the first to land at ANZAC Cove on 25 April 1915. Australia's official World War I historian Charles Bean noted that Blackburn, with Lance Corporal Robin, probably made it further inland than any other Australian soldiers "whose movements are known". Blackburn was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant at Gallipoli in August 1915, and served there for almost the entire campaign.

Western Front

On 23 July 1916, at Pozieres France, the 23 year-old 2nd Lieutenant led an attack for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Blackburn was directed with 50 men to drive the enemy from a strong point. By great determination he captured 250 yards of trench, after personally leading four separate parties of bombers against it, many of whom became casualties. Then after crawling forward with a sergeant to reconnoitre, he returned, attacked again, and seized another 120 yards of trench to establish communication with the battalion on his left

Blackburn returned to Australia on 22 March 1917, marrying Rose Ada Kelly, and being discharged on medical grounds soon after. He returned to legal practice and took an active part in the pro-conscription campaigns. During 1918–21 he was Nationalist member for Sturt in the House of Assembly; he did not seek reelection in 1921. Blackburn was a founding member of the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League in South Australia, where



he served as president of the State branch from 1917–21. He joined the militia in 1924. In 1933–47 he was city coroner, in which office he encountered and ignored criticism for refusing to offer public explanation for any decision not to hold an inquest

Second World War

Continued on Page 2

VAI F



It is with regret we announce the passing of Association member Rob Guerin of Murray Bridge on Saturday 7th December 2013. Rob was a SGT, serving with 27 Bn in the Assault Pioneers and then with the Mortar Platoon. He was a well known and popular Murray Bridge identity. His funeral service was conducted on December 13th at Murray Bridge, and was attended by many family and friends, including colleagues from the Regiment and the RSAR Association. RSARA member Bob Baldwin played the bagpipes at the service and at the cemetery afterwards. Our condolences go to Robs' wife Faye and her family. *RIP Mate.*



Blackburn's grave

Arthur Blackburn
joined the 10th
Battalion as a
Private in 1914.
He was awarded
the VC as a 2nd
Lieutenant in
1916.



Cont...... Arthur Blackburn VC

In 1939, Blackburn was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and took command of a motorized cavalry regiment, the 18th Light Horse (Machine Gun) Regiment. He ceased legal practice in 1940. He was appointed to command the 2/3rd Australian Machine-Gun Battalion, which fought under his command in Syria against the Vichy French in 1941. Blackburn, as the senior Allied officer present, accepted the surrender of Damascus on 21 June, and after the campaign was a member of the Allied Control Commission for Syria.

In February 1942, Blackburn landed with a small Australian force in Java. There he was promoted to brigadier and appointed to command 'Black Force', to assist the Dutch against the rapid Japanese advance.

After three weeks' vigorous but fruitless resistance, and in spite of Blackburn's reluctance, the Allied forces surrendered on 9 March 1942. Blackburn was the senior officer of the Black Force prisoner group, which included 300 Australian seamen from HMAS Perth. He remained a prisoner of war until September 1945 when he was liberated in Mukden, Manchuria, weak but not broken in health. In 1946 he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for his distinguished service in Java. He received his discharge in 1946.

Later life

In 1947–55 Blackburn served as a conciliation commissioner in the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and again as State president of the RSL from 1946–1949.

For his services to the community, he was appointed a Companion in the Order of Sat Michael and St George in 1955.

Blackburn died on 24 November 1960 at Crafers South Australia from a ruptured aneurism of the common iliac artery, and was buried in the AIF section of Adelaide's West Tce Cemetery. His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

The Medals of Arthur Blackburn VC

Victoria Cross (VC) Awarded for Gallantry at the Battle of Pozieres

Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George CMG) Awarded for Service to the Community

Commander of the British Empire (CBE)
Awarded for Services in Java while in Command of
"Black Force"

1914—15 Star Awarded for service overseas (or en-route) during 1914 or 1915

British War Medal 1914—18 Awarded for Operational Service between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918

Victory Medal 1914—19 Awarded to commemorate the Allied Victory in the First World War

1939—45 Star Operational Service between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945

Pacific Star for Operational Service on Java with "Black Force"

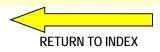
Defence Medal (UK) For Non-Operational Service in a prescribed area during WW2

War Medal 1939—45 Awarded for Service between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945

Australian Service Medal 1939 - 45
Awarded for Service between 3 September 1939 and
2 September 1945

Awarded to a selected number of Australian/
Imperial Citizens to commemorate the 25th
Anniversary of the reign of George V.

King George VI Coronation Medal Awarded to a selected number of Australian/ Imperial Citizens to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI on 12 May 1937



Cont......The Medals of Arthur Blackburn VC

King George V Silver Jubilee Medal Awarded to a selected number of Australian/Imperial Citizens to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the reign of George V.

King George VI Coronation Medal Awarded to a selected number of Australian/Imperial Citizens to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI on 12 May 1937

Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal Awarded to a selected number of Australian/Imperial Citizens to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953

Efficience

Efficiency Decoration Awarded for Long-Service (over 12 Years) with the Territorial Army

The Victoria Cross is the pre-eminent award for acts of bravery in wartime and Australia's highest military honour. It is awarded to persons who, in the presence of the enemy, display the most conspicuous gallantry; a daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice; or extreme devotion to duty.

Just Soldiers Lance Corporal Charles Bunney

Part 2

The Boers were shocked by their success. They had no use for prisoners, nor could they feed or care for them. A heated argument broke out amongst the commanders as to what to do with the captured Australians. Finally, as their comrades loaded the wagons with the seized arms, ammunition and stores, a party of Boers marched the uninjured captives out into the veldt where the troopers were then ordered to halt. They were sure that they were to be executed, but to the utter surprise of the prisoners, they were ordered to strip off their tunics and boots.

The Boers then gathered up the surrendered equipment and galloped back to their column. (Records of the incident do not specify if Bunney took part in this action, and if so whether he was captured or was in the group who escaped.) In the ensuing weeks, the Victorian troopers were subjected to harsh criticism for their perceived actions at Wilmanrust. The Australians knew that the reason for their defeat and capture was not due to shoddy soldiering but to poor leadership. They set out to show their worth. To prove that they were as good as any unit on the veldt—and prove it they did. By the time they left South Africa they had beaten the Boer at every turn and many among their ranks had been decorated, including one awarded the Victoria Cross.

Charles Bunney returned to Australia, proudly wearing the Queen's South Africa Medal with five bars. Following his discharge, he returned to his hometown of Frankston where he resumed his trade as a carpenter.

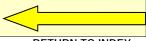
When Australia was plunged into the First World War, Charles Bunney again enlisted to serve his country. Assigned to the 5th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, he sailed with the first expeditionary force, arriving in Egypt on 2 December 1914. The 5th Battalion was part of the second wave to land at ANZAC Cove on 25

April 1915.4 After ten days of ferocious fighting to hold their position, the brigade was transferred to Cape Helles to take part in the attack on the village of Krithia—an action that captured very little ground but cost the brigade dearly with the loss of some one-third of its strength. The battalion returned to ANZAC Cove where it saw further action defending the beachhead and at such places as the Valley of Despair and Lone Pine. During his time on the Peninsula, Bunney responded to a call for tradesmen to reinforce the depleted Pioneers. He was sure his carpentry skills would be useful. One day, as Bunney was installing beams for a new headquarters, he heard the scream of an incoming artillery shell. He dropped to the floor as the round exploded, showering him with splintered beams that crashed all round him as the dugout caved in. Though pinned down by the collapsed structure, he could hear his mates calling to him.

He screamed loudly to attract their attention. After what seemed like forever, he felt great relief as the last of the beams was lifted from his body. He was badly shaken but had suffered no physical injuries. However, following the cave in, he was plagued by recurring nightmares and would often wake at night to find himself clawing at the ground. Bunney was temporarily attached to the 6th Battalion, but returned to his mates in the 5th just prior to the evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula in December 1915. He was promoted to lance corporal in March 1916 and remained with the battalion when it sailed for France the same month. In June of that year, the battalion was engaged in heavy fighting during which Bunney took a bullet in the left forearm. He was evacuated to the 2nd Field Ambulance, located just behind the firing line, but as the wound required additional treatment he was transferred to the 2nd Stationary Hospital, based at Boulogne.

Part 3 next month

By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, Just Soldiers, ADCC Publications, Brisbane, pg 47 to 54





Page 5

RSAR Association & 10/27 Bn Band Cabaret



RETURN TO INDEX

Page 6

RSAR Association & 10/27 Bn Band Cabaret



Letters to the Editor

G'Day David

Congratulations to Rod & Cheryl Beames, Alan Orrock, David and June Laing and other members of the Committee for the success of the fund raising Cabaret for the Band.

Excellent venue, easy parking, fabulous finger food, cheap drinks and a wonderful musical programme from classics to Tom Jones. A few more association attendees would have helped and I think it will be necessary to provide the Band with more assistance in the future.

Regards,

Don Field

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Dear David Laing and David Portakiewicz.,

Thank you and your organisations for last night, it was really enjoyable. Not a lot of people appreciate the effort that goes into the planning and conduct of such and event, well done and David L, your wife's effort was great. Food was excellent. The Aces were high, so thanks from an oldie and his wife.

David P, it is 25 years (November 1988) since the Battalion hosted the huge reunion for the 7th Division 2 AIF (the Silent Seventh) at Torrens Training Depot, your band was the centrepiece for that. At the final wrap, after all of the accolades, the Organising Committee had money left over and asked if there was anything the Battalion or the Band needed. That's where the "new" band lectern banners came from.

Cheers

MAJ **Denis Ranger** OAM RFD (Retd)

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Dear Rod and David,

I just thought I would send you an email to again thank you for all your efforts to get last Friday night to happen. I know it takes a lot of work to make a night like that happen, and I really appreciate the effort your family members put in on the night and the lead up.

I know both the Band and myself really value the support the Association and yourselves give us, and I hope we can continue to build a strong bond.

I look forward to working again with you both and the Association.

Thank you again

David Portakiewicz

Bandmaster 10th/27th Battalion Royal South Australia Regiment

The Cabaret

On Friday November 22nd the RSAR Association hosted a cabaret at the Unley Town Hall, featuring the band of the 10th/27th Battalion, RSAR. About 100 people enjoyed a fantastic night of brilliant music, combined with some in-expensive wines and beer, and free finger food, which kept coming all night. Special Guest at the event were Major General Neil Wilson, *All proceeds of the event* went to purchasing musical instruments and equipment for the 10/27 RSAR Band, which would not normally be funded by Defence. The President Rod Beames, Secretary David Laing & Treasurer Alan Orrock wish to thank not only the 10/27 RSAR Band, but also the CO and RSM of the Battalion for their cooperation, and the Mayor of Unley Lachlan Clyne and his very helpful staff who all helped to make the event possible. To all, thank you.



BLUEY AND CURLY

The long running Australian cartoon strip, 'Bluey and Curley' was based on two residents of Elwood. Alex Gurney, creator of the strip was a long-time member of the Elwood Angling Club. The balding Alex was known in the club as 'Curley'. 'Bluey' was the nickname of his red-headed mate, Len Anderson, a council linesman. They shared a boat called 'Bluey and Curley' on innumerable fishing trips off Elwood Beach. Len 'Bluey' Anderson lived in an Edwardian villa (1927) at **9 Rothesay Avenue**, Elwood from about 1937. Gurney was born in England in 1902. He migrated to Australia with his widowed mother taking up residence in Elwood at **7 Merton Avenue** (now in Brighton) in about 1937. He became a prolific cartoonist for newspapers in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, creating enormously popular Australian characters such as 'Bluey and Curley', 'Stiffy and Mo'(1927), "The Daggs' (1929) and 'Ben Bowyang' (1933). Bluey and Curley were initially based on two larrikin diggers, and readers followed their Aussie adventures from Britain to the army's occupation of Japan, to attempts at civvy life as wharfies, lion tamers and private detectives. Gurney also designed emblems for the South Melbourne Football Club and other clubs. He died in 1955 but his cartoon was continued by other artists for several more years.

Extracts of Gurney's characters will be featured in upcoming issues of "Sitrep, Over!"

Sourced from skhs.org.au

Members who attended the Christmas BBQ were David & June Laing, Helen & Graham Gilmour, Ray Burton, Brian Kilford, Alan & Philippa Hook, Graham & Julie Elliott, Norm & Lyn Tregenza, Rodney & Cheryl Beames and Frank & Brenda Morony and grandsons.



Philippa Hook, Helen Gilmour, Graham Gilmour and Alan Hook enjoy the company and the excellent weather.

2013 Christmas BBQ Sturt Reserve Murray Bridge.



David Laing, Norm Tregenza and Rod Beames compare stories and girths :-)



RETURN TO INDEX

2013 Christmas BBQ



LEFT: Julie Elliott, David Laing, Graham Gilmour, Brian Kilford and Cheryl Beames.

BOTTOM LEFT: June Laing was the unit photographer for the day, and was "snapped" by Frank Morony during a break.

BELOW: Frank & Brenda Morony and grandsons Angus (Sprog 1) and Benjamin (Sprog 2) enjoy a ride back to Riverglen Marina on MV Tickety boo after the BBQ.





The weather on December 15th was perfect for members of the Association to get together to celebrate another successful year of camaraderie. Although numbers were down from last year, the BBQ this year was enjoyed by all those attending the event.



Cheryl Beames chats to Ray Burton



MEET THE COMMITTEE 2014 - RSAR Association Inc

Executive Committee



David Laing Secretary/Editor



Rodney Beames
President



Alex Klopf Vice President



Alan Orrock
Treasurer

Committee Of Management



Norm Rathmann Special Events



Alan Hook Immediate Past President



Norm Tregenza Special Events



Frank Morony Webmaster



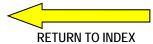
Grant James



Nat Cooke



Paul Klopf





Private Gomad reckons...

Replacing Cpl Knuckles....

Cpl Knuckles has gone AWOL, and until such time as he is returned to Barracks, his place will be taken by his old mate Private Norman Gomad.

Pte Gomad has a long and distinguished career as a malingering lazy-good-for-nothing soldier who can be found in almost every Regiment of the Army. He is the butt of most jokes, but can come up with as many quick witted retorts as his tormentors. In battle, he is the bravest of the brave!

Starting next month

Private Gomad reckons......

"Missing In Action" Feb 16th Guest Speaker Major Jeff Ayles JP (Retd)

Over the years of conflict that Australia has been involved in, casualties have been classified as Killed In Action (KIA), Wounded In Action (WIA) or Missing In Action (MIA). Of these the most dramatic both from a unit or family point of view has been MIA. What has been done to alleviate the family uncertainty and unit concerns about not bringing these MIAs home?

The most public of cases has been the discovery, subsequent recovery and identification of British and Australian Servicemen and their reburial in a new Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery on the Western Front at Fromelles in

This leads to the questions: What lead to the discovery of the servicemen at Fromelles and the actions which followed? Are there any other remains in other locations and past conflicts to be uncovered? What cases have arisen in more recent times, namely the post 1945 period?

Individual and unit researchers have been dominant in their role in providing information to The Army History Unit for additional research which has lead to the formation of the Unrecovered War Casualties — ARMY. From the Western front of 1914-18 and later to the jungles of Papua and New Guinea, to the island of Borneo and to South Vietnam the Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force have been successful in identifying and returning the remains of missing soldiers and airmen to Australia to finally be laid to rest.

The talk on Sunday 16th February is a personal account by the standby patrol commander of two soldiers of 2 Squadron of the Special Air Service Regiment who were declared to be Missing-In-Action in 1966, to when they were located and recovered to Australia culminating in their subsequent memorial service 44 years later.

The standby patrol commander in 1966 Corporal Jeff Ayles (F Troop, 2 Squadron, SASR) will give a presentation regarding the actions of the standby patrol tasked with looking for Lt Ken Hudson and Private Bob Moncrief. The patrol will be described in detail and give a summary of CLARET operations in Indonesian Kalimantan in Borneo in 1966.

Serving for 36 years in the Regular Army, CMF and Army Reserve during which time, as an infantryman, Jeff served in Okinawa, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Borneo, Papua and New Guinea, South Vietnam, Germany and the UK, and is now curator of the Army Museum of SA at Keswick Barracks. Jeff is also an active member of the RSAR Association Inc.

Members (and NON Members) wishing to attend this luncheon at NOON on SUNDAY 16th February at the Royal Hotel Kent Town, are urged to book their seats by contacting Norm Rathmann on his mobile of 0448 460 884 or his email of normgeelong@yahoo.com to avoid disappointment.

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





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www.rsara.asn.au





RSARA Lapel Badge: \$10

RSARA Embroidered Badge:- \$10.

IMPORTANT !!!
ADD \$2 EACH ITEM FOR POSTAGE

ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE

Certain items of Association identification are available on request from the Secretary.

RSARA NAMEPLATE \$20 (Include name as you wish it to appear on badge)

RSARA LAPEL BADGE \$10 REGIMENTAL TIE \$20

EMBROIDERED BADGE \$10

POLO SHIRT (w/- embroidered logo) \$30



Sizes:- S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

Please add \$2 postage for EACH item.

Orders can be placed by the following means:-

Send a Cheque or Money Order to the Secretary at the address above, detailing your purchases. If ordering a NAMEPLATE ensure you include the name you wish to be engraved on the nameplate.

OR

Transfer the correct amount to the Associations Bank Account, and ensure you include your name as an identifier. (Advise the Secretary when placing your order that you have transferred the amount due.)

Account BSB 015 211 Account 482441406

In the name of Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.

Nameplates take approximately 14 days to be manufactured and delivered.



Embroidered by

Willunga Embroidery

MEMBERS LIST

Abareh, Wadi SM Adams, Aaron SM Apostolides, Chris Attenborough, Geoff Ayles, Jeff Baldwin, Bob # Barrass, Mark Bates, Allan Beames, Rod CoM Bennet, Graham Bilsborow, Jason SM Blake, Sam SM Blondell, Mark SM Bourne, Ian SM Boath, Ian Boothroyd, Lincoln SM Boscence, Bob Bras, Rilev SM Broadbent, Robert SM Brookes, Phil Brown, Bruce Brown, Harry Burton, Ray Carnachan, Ian Chittleborough, Jeff Clyne, Lachlan SM Cooke, Nat CoM Contibas, Nikolaus SM Cotton, Bob Dart, John Davey, John Davey, Trevor Davey, Jack Del Vecchio, Victor Demasi, Nathan SM Demosani, Tony Dubsky, Eddie Dunn, Peter Dunn, Bob #Dunn, Jeff Durdin, Russell Durrant, Chris Elliott, Graham Elliss, Scott SM Eva, Keith Ewens, Mimi SM Field, Don Flanagan, Ted

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Munro, Ron

Oliver, Peter Orrock, Alan CoM Ockenden, Marc Oswald, John SM Pach, Chol Paul, John Perkins, Bob Pollard, Barry Phillips, Don Phillips, Trevor Payne, Bob Parslow, Howard Preece, Brian Ranger, Denis Rathmann, John Rathmann, Norm CoM Ramm, Hank Robertson, Jim Rorie, Graham SM Rossetti, Lee Sage, Andrew Salamon, Peter Sanders, Ashley SM Sanderson, Max Sands, Mike Sexton, Mark SM Sprigg, Rob Staker, Cameron SM Standing, Michael #Stone, Eddie Strain, Doug Steer, Phil Stewart, Rob Stuart, Matthew SM Tiller, Garth Thomson, Jim Tolotta, Tarrant SM Tregenza, Norm CoM Trezise, George Ullrich, Andreas SM Vella, Joe Wake, Stephen Waters, lan LM Weightman, Aidan SM Westover, Rhys Wheeler, Chris Williams, Darrian SM Wilson, Neil Wood, George Woore, Phillip

Yorke-Simpkin Reg

LM

Zuromski, Paul SM

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LM denotes LIFE MEMBER SM denotes SERVING ADF MEMBER # Denotes NEW MEMBER

175 members as at 14/12/13

The Association
welcomes new
members
Mark Barrass, Jeff
Dunn and Eddie
Stone

