

November
2019



"Sitrep, Over!"

To Perpetuate the Regiment

1st Support Request for 2020

One of the ways we interact with our Regiment is to provide catering support for certain exercises throughout the year, and our first task for 2020 has just been handed down.

The Battalion Skills Assessment Weekend is **Saturday, 01 Feb and Sunday, 02 Feb 2020** at the

Monash Centre, RAAF Edinburgh. We have been asked to provide lunch on both days between 1200 and 1300 hrs for around 150 soldiers. The could be more!

Our role is to prepare the food prior to lunch each day and then serve the same. It's not hard work but we DO need about 20 volunteers to support us. We'll need to be at the RAAF Base main gates at 1000 hrs each day where we'll be issued security passes which will permit supervised entry. Enter, unpack, prepare, serve, clean up, pack up and depart. Simples!!

Last year we had support from the guys from SAMRA and 3 Fd Sqdn Assoc, and we're hoping for similar help in 2020. If you can help out, please contact the Secretary by the means on Page 4. Your country will thank you for it. (So will the soldiers!)

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Special Points of Interest

- Helpers needed for 1st Exercise at RAAF Base Edinburgh in 2020
- Don't forget 11th November is Remembrance Day, and in the lead up folk will be selling Poppies to support our veterans and their families. Give where you can.
- Your stories are always needed for publication. Times and places can be changed to protect the guilty.



MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

NEW BASEBALL CAPS

POLO TOPS

LAPEL BADGES

STUBBY HOLDERS

Regt Assoc Shields

NAME BADGES

ASSOC CLOTH PATCHES

.....AND MORE. Contact the Treasurer for details of purchase etc

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

RSAR Association

BSB 633 000

Acc. 1616 585 88

Cheques etc can be mailed to David Hope at:

The Treasurer RSAR Association

20 Katoomba Rd

Beaumont SA 5066

Pte John Olden 10th Battalion AIF

This story was sent to me nearly 5 years ago by RSARA member Phil Brookes, and I thought it apt to revisit it now. Editor.

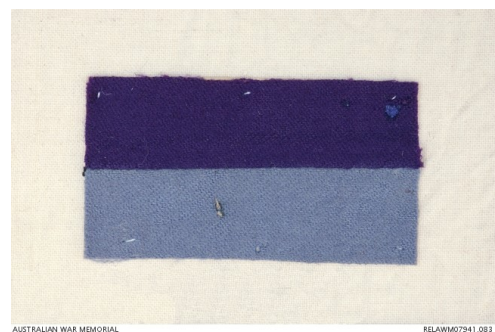
So many cemeteries, so many graves of young, and not so young men who had given their all. It was at Dernancourt, where many South Australians fought, that I specifically sought a grave of a 10th Bn – *the fighting tenth* - soldier. It was my grandfather's unit and one that I served in generations later.

I paused at many graves and wondered about these men, most in the prime of their youth, who travelled so far. Was it adventure? But one grave caught my eye; that of 1140 Pte John Peter Henry Olden, a photographer from Ballarat who, at 44 years and 11 months, enlisted at Keswick Barracks on 4 January 1916. He was not married and his mother, living in Ballarat, was his NOK.

We would wonder why a man of middle age, would forgo life in Australia to go to war. Maybe it was a photographers natural curiosity; we will never know; or was it some latent martial spirit as John Olden had spent five years in the 3rd Victorian Regiment, whose forerunner was the 3rd Ballarat Infantry. His brother was also a military man, Lt Col O L Olden, whose address was shown as C/- Naval and Military Club, Hobart. Interestingly, John Olden was initially rejected for military service; his military record giving the reason for the rejection as 'teeth'; no further explanation. Did he have too many, not enough, none at all or were they yellowed canine fangs, upsetting to the tidy military mind? However, he obviously overcame this deficiency as he was soon on his way to France.

Pte Olden was initially posted to 43 Bn and then to B Coy, 10th Bn, embarking from Adelaide's Outer Harbour on 9 June 1916 and disembarking at Marseilles on 20 July 1916. Less than four months later he would be dead. We can imagine Olden's initial images of France; they would have delighted his sharp photographic eye as he travelled by train through the South of France to Paris. Beautiful villages, rolling bucolic countryside and the colour and romance of Paris would role past in kaleidoscope of a brilliant French summer. It was only a short train ride further north; that hellish nightmare of the Somme; *Dante's Inferno* could be no worse.

There is very little In John Olden's military record that gives us a hint of the man resting in that peaceful cemetery. His conduct sheet is clean, which you would expect of an older, mature man. The flush of youth had passed him by and he no longer had that nonchalant cockiness and disdain for rank of his younger, more feisty comrades. Maybe he was a calming fatherly influence on these boisterous colonials.



Dernancourt Commonwealth Military Cemetery

The entry of his death states: *'Died of wounds after an evening air raid'*. The location was 3 Field Ambulance, 1st ANZAC Rest Station. He died on 11 November 1916; exactly two years later the Armistice would be signed. We can only assume John Olden

By kind permission of Phil Brookes

was resting out of the line after a 'stunt', as the rest station would have been in the rear echelon. His mother received a pension of two pounds per fortnight; she died in 1921; no doubt her heart broken by the loss of her son, so far away and unable to visit his grave. It was his brother, Lt Col Olden, who ensured a poignant and final epitaph was placed on John Olden's grave;

He lived and died for others

And, for a short time on ANZAC Day 2015, a later comrade from your Battalion paused, placed an Australian flag at your feet and said a silent prayer. You are in good company.



Pte Olden's grave



**Private John Peter Henry Olden
10th Battalion AIF
Died of Wounds 11th November 1916
103 years ago on Remembrance Day
LEST WE FORGET**



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Find us on
Facebook

**Do you have any photos of
interest from your Army days that
we can use on our website or our
Facebook pages?**

**Yes, email them to me and we'll
share them around for everyone
to appreciate.**

Don't have Facebook?

WHY NOT?

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL? WE ARE
WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU, AND OUR
MEMBERS WOULD LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT
YOUR ARMY DAYS.

EMAIL US AT davidlaing49@bigpond.com
AND WE'LL MAKE YOU FAMOUS.
COME ON BLONDIE, MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Editorial

It's only November and we've finished planning for Christmas and are now into 2020. Such is the life of an RSARA member.

As you saw on Page 1, we have already been tasked with providing Catering Support for the Battalion on the 1st and 2nd February 2020. 2020?? Geez, I remember when we were all worried about the Millennium Bug in 2000! All computers will freeze. Elevators will cease to work. All the traffic lights will not function. Chaos will reign!

I was at a "Welcome to 2000 New Years Eve" party in Prospect, and at the stroke of midnight some wally turned off the circuit breakers in the Fuse Box. Now THAT was chaos! Women screamed (and some men too) kids were trampled in the stampede (they should have been in bed anyway) and the neighbours dog got out and was never seen again!

When everyone realized the hosts house was the only one in darkness, we all wandered back in and took up where we left off. "Should old acquaintance be forgot.....etc"

2020 will see new challenges for this country and the civilized world, and new wars will start somewhere on this planet. Our soldiers will be called upon to provide support, whether it be front line, peace keeping or humanitarian, and you can bet your sweet Caroline the men and women of the 10th/27th Battalion will be some of the first to put up their hands to go!

That is what makes this country so great and that is what makes our lives so great in this country. We have men and women trained and ready to go at a moments notice to defend our democracy and our way of life.

They will put up their hands, just like you did in 1967, 1988 and 2004, and we may rest assured that this Association of the Old & Bold will support them whenever and wherever we can!

(By the way, Membership Applications to join us can be found on our Facebook page or on our website.)

Cheers

David Laing Editor

The views expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc, the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR or the Australian Defence Forces. Any similarity to those organisations is purely good luck.

The Charge at Beersheba



The charge of the 4th Australian Light Horse at Beersheba late in the afternoon of 31 October 1917, is remembered as the last great cavalry charge. The assault on Beersheba began at dawn with the infantry divisions of the British XX Corps attacking from the south and south-west. Despite artillery and air support, neither the infantry attacks from the south, or the Anzac Mounted Division's attack from the east had succeeded in capturing Beersheba by mid-afternoon.

With time running out for the Australians to capture Beersheba and its wells before dark, Lieutenant General Harry Chauvel, the Australian commander of the Desert Mounted Corps, ordered Brigadier General William Grant, commanding the 4th Light Horse Brigade, to make a mounted attack directly towards the town. Chauvel knew, from aerial photographs, that the Turkish trenches in front of the town were not protected by barbed wire. However, German bombing had forced the 4th Brigade into a scattered formation and it was not until 4.50 pm that they were in position. The Brigade assembled behind rising ground 6 kilometres south-east of Beersheba with the 4th Light Horse Regiment on the right, the 12th Light Horse Regiment on the left and the 11th Light Horse Regiment in reserve.

The Australian Light Horse was to be used purely as cavalry for the first time. Although they were not equipped with cavalry sabres, the Turks who faced the long bayonets held by the Australians did not consider there was much difference between a charge by cavalry and a charge by mounted infantry. The Light Horse moved off at the trot, and almost at once quickened to a gallop. As they came over the top of the ridge and looked down the long, gentle open slope to Beersheba, they were seen by the Turkish gunners, who opened fire with shrapnel. But the pace was too fast for the gunners. After three kilometres Turkish machine-guns opened fire from the flank, but they were detected and silenced by British artillery. The rifle fire from the Turkish trenches was wild and high as the Light Horse approached. The front trench and the main trench were jumped and some men dismounted and then attacked the Turks with rifle and bayonet from the rear. Some galloped ahead to seize the rear trenches, while other squadrons galloped straight into Beersheba.

Nearly all the wells of Beersheba were intact and further water was available from a storm that had filled the pools. The 4th and 12th Light Horse casualties were thirty-one killed and thirty-six wounded; they captured over 700 men. The capture of Beersheba meant that the Gaza-Beersheba line was turned. Gaza fell a week later and on 9 December 1917, the British troops entered Jerusalem.

The story of A Squadron 3rd/9th Light Horse SAMR can be read on Pages 10 and 11.



**All Members of the RSAR Association, Serving Members of
10/27 Bn and Attached Units (3/9 SAMR, 3 Fd Sqd) and their
families are invited to
The 2019 END OF YEAR BBQ**

**Sunday 15th December 2019
Keswick Barracks
Roy Inwood VC Club
1100 - 1500 hrs**

All meat and salads provided FREE of charge

**Contact David Laing on 0407 791 822 or davidlaing49@bigpond.com
for catering purposes.**



Bonus Joke Page for FREE



OMG, I'm rich!
Silver in the Hair
Gold in the Teeth
Crystals in the Kidneys
Sugar in the Blood
Lead in the Ass
Iron in the Arteries
And an inexhaustible supply of
Natural Gas.

I never thought I'd accumulate such wealth

A tomato family is walking down the road, baby tomato falls behind, daddy tomato goes back smacks him on the head and says "Ketchup!"

**You never appreciate what you have till it's gone.
Toilet paper is a good example.**



**THIS MORNING I WAS BEATEN UP BY A BUXOM WOMAN
IN AN ELEVATOR**

**I WAS LOOKING AT HER BREASTS WHEN SHE SAID
"WOULD YOU PLEASE PRESS ONE?"**

SO I DID.

**I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH AFTER THAT BUT I SHOULD BE OUT
OF HOSPITAL IN A FEW DAYS.**

CPL DAVE'S PAGE

REDNECK MURDERS ARE HARD TO SOLVE

**THERE'RE NO DENTAL RECORDS
AND ALL OF THE DNA IS THE SAME**

memegenerator.net



FIFTY SHADES OF WHAT????

Four chaps have been going to the same golfing trip to St Andrews for many years..

Two days before the group is to leave, Jack's wife puts her foot down and tells him he isn't going.

Jack's mates are very upset that he can't go, but what can they do.

Two days later, the three get to St Andrews only to find Jack sitting at the bar with four drinks set up!

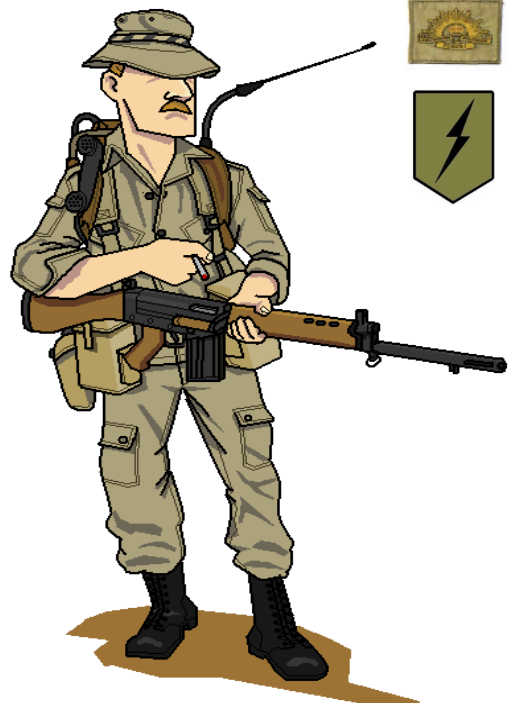
"Wow, Jack, how long you been here, and how did you talk your mis-sus into letting you go?"

"Well, I've been here since last night..

Yesterday evening, I was sitting in my living room chair and my wife came up behind me and put her hands over my eyes and asked, 'Guess who?' I pulled her hands off, and there she was, wearing a nightie. She took my hand and pulled me into our bedroom. The room had candles and rose petals all over. Well she's been reading 50 Shades of Grey.....

On the bed she had hand-cuffs, and ropes! She told me to tie her up and cuff her to the bed, so I did. And then she said, "Do whatever you want."

"So, here I am!"



**I stopped telling myself
that I'm lost.**

I'm not.

**I'm on a road with no
destination, I'm just driving
with hope that I'll find a place
that I like and I'll stay there.
I'm not lost, I'm on my way.**

**The Grim Reaper came for me last night,
and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner .**

Talk about Dyson with death .

**GOING INTO A TEENAGERS
ROOM IS LIKE TAKING
A TRIP TO IKEA.....**

**YOU POP IN JUST TO LOOK
AND END UP LEAVING
WITH 6 CUPS 2 PLATES
3 BOWLS A TEA TOWEL
AND SOME CUTLERY**

'A' Squadron, 3rd/9th Light Horse (South Australian Mounted Rifles)



The 3/9 SAMR has the oldest surviving military title in South Australia. It can trace its ancestry back to 1854 when a regiment was formed under the Volunteer Forces Act as the Adelaide Mounted Rifle Corps. The Year Book of South Australia for 1854 state – 'Adelaide Forces Rifles, enrolled under the 15th Clause of the Volunteer Military Forces Act, finding their own horses, arms, etc and receiving no pay, shall consist of one captain, one lieutenant, one surgeon and 27 troopers'.

By 1867 the unit had progressed and was selected to provide guards and escorts for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on his visit to South Australia. After this the unit was dubbed the 'Dukes Own Cavalry'.

In the Boer War an equivalent of a squadron saw service in South Africa with the 'Bushman's Contingent'. They first saw action on 6th February 1900 and on the very same day three troopers were decorated with Distinguished Conduct Medals. The GOC in South Africa, General Methuen, wrote of the – "The Regiment did splendid work and all ranks were cheerful under hardships. I cannot conceive any body of men of whom a commander had greater reason to be proud."

After the Boer War the unit expanded into two Regiments called the 16th and 17th Australian Light Horse Regiments. In 1904 the King's Colour was presented to the 16th. This colour was carried for many years but in 1926 it was presented to St Augustine's Church of England, Victor Harbour. A silver plate on the staff of this colour still carried the original inscription 'Presented by His Most Glorious Majesty, the King Emperor to the 16th Light Horse Regiment in recognition of services rendered to the Empire in South Africa'.

During the 1914-1918 War there was a change in the number of the Regiments. The 16th became the 3rd and the 17th became the 9th Australian Light Horse Regiment. Later another change saw them as the 22nd and the 24th. The 3rd and 9th Light Horse served with outstanding valour during the first World War and it is in remembrance of their bravery and sacrifice that we today are designated 3rd/9th.

The 9th Light Horse Regiment has one very unique distinction. It captured a battle standard of a Turkish Regiment and was the only unit to capture such a standard during the first World War. This trophy now hangs in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

In subsequent years new numbers were bestowed on the Regiments of Light Horse and some fresh units were formed but throughout most of them bore the old title 'South Australian Mounted Rifles' which was a direct link with the original unit of 1854.

These units continued as Light Horse until 1940 when they were reformed into Armoured Regiments, some of which saw active service in the Islands during World War II. In 1948 with the formation of the CMF, these units were incorporated as one regiment, the 3/9 South Australian Mounted Rifles. This unit is now part of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) and comes under the operational umbrella of the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR.

Today the Rifles operate with Bushmaster and Land Rover Light armoured vehicles. Apart from our camps, weekend bivouacs, home training, some of the unit activities in the past few years have included: the laying up of the Queen's Colour in St Peter's Cathedral, selection as Sovereign Guard to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II in 1954 and Vice Regal Guard to the Governor of South Australia. On Sunday 7th February 1960 the new 3rd and 9th Light Horse Regiments Guidons were presented to the unit by our then Honorary Colonel, LT GEN Sir Sydney F. Rowell, KBE, CB. A ceremonial parade was held on 14 May 1961 when the regiment trooped the old 3rd and 9th Light Horse Guidon for the last time, laying them up in St Peter's Cathedral. Members of these Light Horse regiments mounted a cavalry escort to the Guidons. It was probably the last parade in Australia for the Light Horse.

The history of the unit is a proud one. As the only armoured unit in South Australia the 3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles carry on the traditions of the 3rd, 9th, 18th and 23rd Australian Light Horse Regiments as well as the earlier volunteer regiments. 3rd/9th Light Horse SAMR are based at the Elizabeth Training Depot north of Adelaide.

'A' Squadron, 3rd/9th Light Horse (South Australian Mounted Rifles)

Battle Honours

| 3rd Light Horse | 9th Light Horse |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| SOUTH AFRICA, 1899-1902 | SOUTH AFRICA, 1899-1902 |
| DEFENCE OF ANZAC | DEFENCE OF ANZAC |
| SARI BAIR | SARI BAIR |
| GALLIPOLI, 1915 | GALLIPOLI, 1915 |
| ROMANI | ROMANI |
| MAGDHABA-RAFAH | MAGDHABA-RAFAH |
| GAZA-BEERSHEBA | GAZA-BEERSHEBA |
| JERUSALEM | JERUSALEM |
| JAFFA | JORDAN (ES SALT) |
| JERICHO | MEGGIDO |
| JORDON (AMMAN) | SHARON |
| MEGGIDO | DAMASCUS |

3rd/9th Light Horse (South Australian Mounted Rifles) has the capability to conduct reconnaissance, security, offensive and defensive operations and can operate independently for extended periods over large distances.

The Squadron consists of a Headquarters and three Troops; a Protected Mobility Troop, a Mounted Reconnaissance Troop and a Dismounted Reconnaissance Troop.

The Squadron is equipped with the Australian Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle, and the Land Rover, Regional Force Surveillance Vehicle.

