



"Sitrep, Over!"

FEBRUARY 2018

Editor David Laing

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

Colours Tell Their Story

The custom of dedicating and laying up Colours in churches and in memorials has its origins in antiquity.

Colours themselves originated from the days of early man who fixed his family badge to a pole and held it aloft in battle to both indicate his position and to provide a rallying point for his troops.

Regardless of origin, design and form, Colours and the insignia are symbolic of a fighting unit's spirit and a visual record of gallant deeds performed by the members of the unit. These are recorded by reference to the location of the deed and on Colours are called Battle Honours.

The custom of laying up the Colours has dictated that a regiment's Colours should be preserved in the appropriate church of the town with which the regiment was identified, providing as it were a link with eternity. The visual presence of the Colours in a church make it possible to rally future generations and to remind those who have not had the experience, of the heights to which the human spirit can soar as a group of resolute men channel their convictions into sweat and sacrifice for goals deemed worthy.

Guidons, swallow-tailed pennants borne on a lance or a pike, are the Armoured Corps' counterpart of Infantry Colours.

The guns of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery are the Regiment's Colours. The rallying point for the gunners has always been the guns and the gunners are instilled with the tradition of serving their guns under fire - to abandon them is still the ultimate disgrace. The Artillery's guns are accorded the same compliments and respect as the Infantry's Colours and the Armoured Corps Guidons.

Associations of returned servicemen have also designed banners which are used as rallying points for ceremonies of significance such as ANZAC Day and other memorial services. These too are symbolic of the unit's spirit, and its service. *Continued Page 3*

February 11th BBQ @ RAAF Edinburgh

As previously published, the RSAR Association will support a 9 Brigade training exercise at RAAF Edinburgh on February 11th. We currently have only 5 people who have put up their hands, and we need at least 12 to help prepare, cook and serve up to 200 soldiers for a BBQ lunch. We require your names ASAP so we can register you with RAAF POL and get you security passes for access onto the base.

Please contact the Secretary David Laing on davidlaing49@bigpond.com to put your name on the list. Many hands make light work.

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Special points of interest:

- Since December 27th last year we have had numerous calls to update individual memberships. See Page 8 for the NEW UPDATE.
- A WW1 Artillery gun captured by the 10th Battalion in 1918 is undergoing restoration at Murray Bridge RSL. See Page 3.
- A 1963 adventure by Don Field Page 6

Facts about WW1

Life in the Trenches.

There was nothing glamorous about trench life. World War 1 trenches were dirty, smelly and riddled with disease. For soldiers life in the trenches meant living in fear. In fear of diseases (like cholera and trench foot) and of course, the constant fear of enemy attack.

Trench warfare WW1 style is something all participating countries vowed never to repeat and the facts make it easy to see why.

Constructing WW1 Trenches

The British and the French recruited manpower from non-belligerent China to support the troops with manual labour. Their most important task was digging the trenches in WW1.

140,000 Chinese labourers served on the Western Front over the course of the First World War (40,000 with the French and 100,000 with the British forces). They were known as the Chinese Labour Corps.



No Mans Land

The open space between two sets of opposing trenches became known as No Man's Land because no soldier wanted to traverse the distance for fear of attack.

The climate in France and Belgium was quite wet, so No Man's Land soon became a mud bath. It was so thick that soldiers could disappear into it never to be seen again.

Hell On Earth

There were millions of rats in WW1 trenches. A pair of rodents could produce as many as 900 young a year in trench conditions so soldiers' attempts to kill them were futile.

80,000 British Army soldiers suffered from shell shock over the course of the war. That's approximately 2% of the men who were called up for active service.

World War 1 trench warfare was so intense that **10% of all the soldiers who fought were killed**. That's more than double the percentage of fighting soldiers who were killed in the Second World War (4.5%).



WW1 soldiers from the German Field Artillery Regiment. Their iconic grey uniforms are clear to see in colour. The gun they are posing with is Feldkanone 96 field gun (7.7cm).

See Page 3 for details about a similar gun now residing in Murray Bridge.

Continued from Front Page..... Colours Tell Their Story

There's Colour in this Tradition

Colours have always had significance for soldiers.
An 18th century military writer recorded the following colours and their military meanings:

YELLOW	Honour, which should never be in question
WHITE	Innocence and truth
BLACK	Wisdom and sobriety
BLUE	Faith and constancy
RED	Justice
GREEN	Good hope
PURPLE	Fortitude with discretion
TAWNY	Merit

In the old tradition, if a mortally wounded ensign wrapped the Colours around his body and died with them, the Colours were not considered lost. The honour of the Colours was carried with the ensign's soul to heaven "to the possession of the eternal forever" and the enemy was denied the honour of having captured them.

It was a soldier's duty to pick up the Colours and, at all costs, save them.
"Indeed a greater act of cowardice cannot be found than to suffer the Colours to be lost", records Francis Grose in his *Military Antiquities* (1786 - 88).



The Queen's and Regimental Colours of the 10th Battalion RSAR

WW1 Gun @ Murray Bridge

In 1918 on the battlefields of Europe, a battery of 77 mm German Artillery guns were captured by members of the 10th Battalion, which was raised in South Australia, and contained men from Murray Bridge. One of those guns was bequeathed to the "people of Murray Bridge, in recognition of that regions soldiers who had fought in WW1" In 2015 it was recognised by the RSL Regional Coordinator for the Murraylands, David Laing, that the artillery piece was falling into a bad state of repair, and he approached the Murray Bridge RSL with an idea of restoring the gun, and returning it to it's former glory. After consultation with the Murray Bridge Council, it was agreed that the gun be moved to the Murray Bridge RSL, ironically 98 years to the day that it was first captured.



A sub committee was formed to oversee the restoration process, comprising RSL and Murraylands Mens Shed members, and they set about the daunting task. The gun was relocated to the forecourt of the RSL courtesy of local engineering firm, Moore Engineering, and research was conducted to provide measurements for the new wheels, to replace the old non-genuine carriage wheels that were falling apart.

making the new wheels, to the close specifications of the originals, and in a few months they will near completion. In 2018 the restoration of the main carriage and trail will commence in earnest, hopefully having the project completed by Remembrance Day 2018, 100 years after the gun was captured. We'll keep you advised of the progress. Editor



Once this was done the Mens Shed started



The History of the Royal South Australia Regiment (in 4 parts)

Part 1. The Royal South Australia Regiment is the heir to and custodians of the following Battle Honours awarded to those Battalions of the 1st and 2nd AIF raised in South Australia.

South Africa: 1899 - 1902*

The Great War

Somme 1916, 1918	Albert 1918
Pozières*	Mont St Quentin
Bullecourt *	Hindenburg Line*
Messines 1917	Épehy
Ypres 1917*	St Quentin Canal
Menin Road*	Beaurevoir
Polygon Wood	France and Flanders 1916 - 1918
Broodseinde	Anzac
Poelcapelle	Landing at Anzac*
Passchendaele*	Defence of Anzac
Ancre 1918	Suvla
Lys	Sari Bair
Hazebrouck	Gallipoli 1915
Kemmel	Egypt 1915-1916
Hamel	Villers-Bretonneux
Amiens*	



The Queen's and Regimental Colours of the 27th Battalion RSAR

The Second World War

North Africa 1941 – 1942	Cape Endaiadere-Sinemi Creek
Defence of Tobruk*	Sanananda-Cape Killerton
El Adem Road	Milne Bay*
The Salient 1941	Lae-Nadzab
Defence of Alamein Line	Busu River
Tel el Eisa	Finschhafen*
Tel el Makh Khad	Defence of Scarlet Beach
El Alamein*	Sattleberg*
Syria 1941	Pabu
The Litani	Liberation of Australian New Guinea
Adlun	Ramu Valley
Sidon	Shaggy Ridge*
Damour	Borneo*
South West Pacific 1942 - 1945	Tarakan
Kokoda Trail *	Labuan
Efogi-Menari	Beaufort
Buna-Gona	Balikpapan
Gona	

Honours marked with * are emblazoned on the Colours

The Royal South Australia Regiment, which was raised on 1 July 1960, is the heir and successor to the various infantry battalions of South Australia. On the Queen's and Regimental Colours of the Royal South Australia Regiment (RSAR) are emblazoned the Battle Honours awarded those South Australian battalions.

Pre World War One

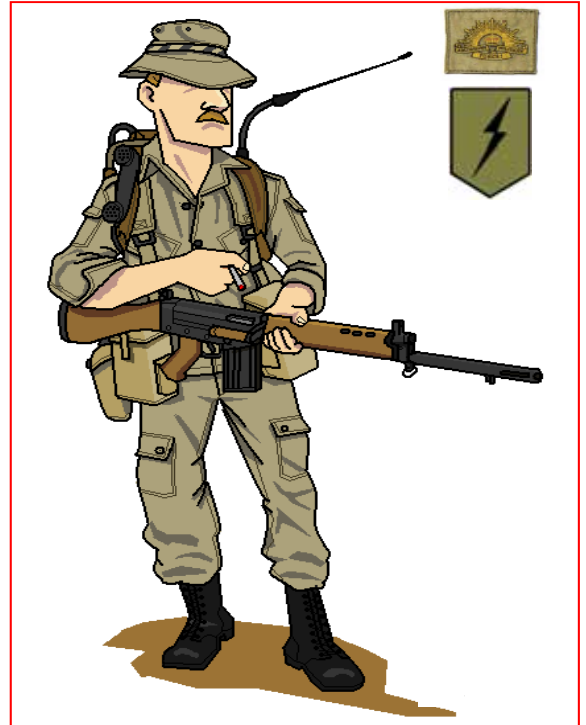
There has been a strong military flavour to the history of South Australia. Many early leading figures came from military backgrounds. Colonel William Light had fought with Wellington in the Peninsula Campaign and the explorers Sturt, Barker and Warburton were serving or retired officers. However as a colony of free citizens without the security threat of a convict population, a strong British military presence was not required. The marine detachment of HMS Buffalo was sufficient to provide initial security until withdrawn in July 1838 to help establish the short-lived settlement at Port Essington, in what is now the Northern Territory.

Continued next month.



CPL Dave's Page

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



Every box of raisins is a tragic story of grapes that could have been wine.



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

The answer to Life's problems may not lie at the bottom of a bottle of wine, but you should at least look!

CONTACT US

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FACEBOOK

We're on the Web
www.rsara.asn.au

Association Banking Details

BSB 015 211
Account: 482441406

Defence Road New Guinea

In 1963 I was a member of 10 RSAR. At this time, Indonesia had annexed Dutch New Guinea, which had a common boundary with the Australian territory of New Guinea.

My civilian employer had been engaged by the Federal Government to examine the feasibility of constructing a heavy duty Defence Road on the north side of New Guinea adjacent to the Dutch border, and I was offered a place on the team.

The North coast typically had a coastal strip between high water mark and the very steep jungle covered mountains reaching up to the Owen Stanley Ranges. It became obvious that no road was feasible in the mountains, therefore we concentrated on the coastal strip with some incursions into the mountains.



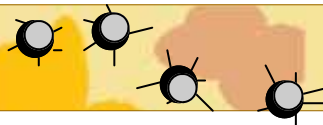
Don Field far right at a village near the Dutch border

We came across lots of abandoned war material, and once found four Toyotas trucks neatly parked and covered in green moss. We walked about 100 km, staying overnight in native villages and I was surprised at how quickly I became exhausted. It made me appreciate how difficult it would have been during operations in WW2. At night in the jungle no light penetrated, it was jet black and made estimating locations and directions almost impossible.

Later The Independence Movement in Dutch New Guinea was quashed and the area was occupied by Indonesia.

Don Field

Financial or NOT?



When I took over as Secretary of this illustrious Association back in early 2009, we had around 52 members, and it was quite easy to track the payment of annual fees, and record the same to a spreadsheet. This year our numbers have reached 242, with the likelihood of continued growth into the future.

In that time I concentrated on the newsletter and the Facebook page, plus the usual duties of a secretary, which entailed doing everything including doing the dishes! Also in that time I "number crunching" up to the Treasurer. Apparently, he our dilemma. Multitudes of members forgot to keep their have let literally hundreds slip through our fingers. Last and who wasn't, led to a multitude of emails and calls to their payment details and life memberships. I have passed up (he he hee) and trust he can sort out those few who should be. Fees are payable each year after the August it on your calendar.

***Please don't shoot
the messenger!!!***

figured I would leave the duties of thought the same of me. Therein lay fees current, and over the years we months item about who was financial me from members alerting me to all those onto our treasurer to follow aren't on the membership list but AGM, and the onus is on you to mark

In the meantime, if your name isn't on the list published on Page 8 of this newsletter, and you still wish to be a member, please forward your cheque or money order to the Treasurer David Hope at 20 Katoomba Rd Beaumont SA 5066, or EFT to the banking details above.

And please, if you happen to be one of those who omitted to pay your fees, please don't shoot the messenger, just pay !

Army Drill Halls—We need your photos!

Member Des Hawkins, an historian at the Army Museum of SA writes of an approaching project to put together a display within the museum a history of those various Army Drill Halls within South Australia that we all frequented during our military service.

Des says "Pride of place naturally would be the now defunct Alberton depot including our Red Rooster flag. (which would please Ian Carnachan & a few others.) I've approached Donovan & Assoc. Who did the original site history of the Alberton depot prior to its demolition to see if they still have the original building photos, hopefully in colour and that we can use them.

I'm wondering if within the next issue of "Sitrep" we could put in a request to see if any members may have photos of the "old" depots that they could send to me? As of 1995 depots at Somerton Pk, Beulah Pk., and Alberton were sold thus leaving the current depots of:-

Pt. Lincoln.

Whyalla.

Pt. Augusta.

Pt. Pirie.

Murray Bridge.

Clare.

Kadina.

Broken Hill, (prior to 1955)

Berri, (prior to 1970)

Mt. Gambier, (prior to 1966)

Elizabeth (prior to 1967)

Gawler

& Torrens Training Depot.



Prospect Drill Hall circa 1950

The RSAR Association contains current members who served at most of those depots Des has mentioned, therefore some photos must still be available.

The piece below is from the Prospect City Council website. www.prospect.sa.gov.au

In 1913, some Prospect residents found the young military cadets drilling in the streets of 'great annoyance'. The Commonwealth authorities responded with the promise of a drill hall in Ballville Street, Fitzroy, where a suitable site was located. By January 1914 the siting of a drill hall on land on the southern side of the Windmill Hotel was considered far too close to a public house, and a more central site, for which land was available, was preferred. By November 1914, Prospect was among the few suburbs with a new drill hall. By September 1917 a Training Depot hall operated in Lily Street (re-named Labrina Avenue in 1925) for which a street light was requested to ease activities.

If any members have photos of interest, they can be emailed to Des at desmondh@ozemail.com.au or sent to him c/o Army Museum of SA, Keswick Barracks, ANZAC Highway, SA 5035.



RSAR Association - Financial Members as at January 19, 2018

Members		Members (ctd.)		Honorary Member	
Abareh	Wadi	Payne	Bob	Wilson	Neil
Abel	Colin	Perkins	Bob		
Acton	Chris	Pexton	Timothy	Life Members	
Attenborough	Geoff	Phillips	Colin Rex	Blackmore	Bill
Barnaart	Philip	Pollard	Barry	Bourne	Ian
Bates	Allan	Portakiewicz	David	Burnard	Trent
Beames	Rodney	Preece	Brian	Gaborit	Lyndon
Blake	Sam	Rado	Stephen	Hawking	Don
Blondell	Mark	Ramm	Hank	Hogan	Mark
Boath	Ian	Ranger	Denis	Hook	Alan
Burton	Ray	Rathmann	Norm	Hope	David
Carnachan	Ian	Rathmann	John	Horseman	Ian
Chittleborough	Jeff	Rijken	Paul	Johnson	Barry
Cooke	Nat	Rossetti	Lee	Klopf	Alex
Cotton	Bob	Russack	Jonathon	Laing	David
Cram	Kevin	Sage	Andrew	Lakin	Bruce
Davey	Trevor	Sanderson	Max	Marlin	Robin
Dew	Trevor	Standing	Michael	Moore	Terry
Elliott	Graham	Thomas	David	Ockenden	Marc
Field	Don	Thomson	Jim	Phillips	Trevor
Gatley	Graham	Tregenza	Norm	Stewien	Peter
Gibson	Lindsay	Trezise	George	Waters	Ian
Gill	Graham	Vella	Joe	Westover	Rhys
Gilmour	Graham	Warren	Chad	Wilson	Graham
Goodwin	Graham	Wheeler	Chris	Yorke-Simpkin	Reg
Gordon	Frank				
Harrison	John	ex 10th Inf Bn Members		Associate Life	
Hawkins	Des	Chaplin	Tony	Members	
Hudson	Rick	Collins	Peter	Phillips	Heather
Jeffrey	Scott	Harrison	Keith		
Johnston	Robert	Harrison	Nigel	Associate Members	
Justin	Trent	Hill	Max	Abel	Karen
Lee	Pat	Kearney	Robert	Beames	Cheryl
Loveder	Peter	Larkins	Steve	Carnachan	Dom
Main	Brian	Mclver	Bill	Elliott	Julie
Martin	Bob	Mulroney	Dennis	Field	Shirley
Matchett	Bill	Pike	Graham	Hook	Philippa
McCulloch	Don	Rech	Tony	Hudson	Margaret
Mitchell	Barry	Sharon	Greg	Laing	June
Morony	Frank	Spencer	John	Lee	Ann
Orrock	Alan	Tyson	Tich	Main	Raelene
Parslow	Howard			Sanderson	Lorraine
Parsonage	James	Prepaid Members		Tregenza	Lyn
Paul	John	2018/19		Winger	Kathleen
		2019/20			