



# “SITREP, OVER!”



Editor—David Laing 0407 791 822

**DECEMBER 2012**

## Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

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### A Christmas message from the President - Alan Hook

The Secretaries timely reminder of the importance of keeping in touch with friends and family, (Page 5) prompts me to a few remarks.

You never know when your number is up. Bill Hatley's unexpected demise recently was a great shock. I was in Dubai and happened to read the email telling us that he had died suddenly in Turkey. No one expects to die like that but then that is what "sudden" means; unexpectedly.

Last week another good fellow out riding his bike felt faint and suddenly he is on the ground suffering a "heart attack". Fortunately for him one of his companions was able to administer CPR and was on the job before the ambulance arrived. This prompt first aid saved his life. He is now recovering. I am sure we all have examples we could relate.

My only wish is that I don't become the subject of the conversation before I get a few more of the items off my "bucket list"; and if something happens so be it, but at least let us go doing something we enjoy, just like Bill.

### NEXT LUNCH DATE

Talking of Turkey Philippa and I thoroughly enjoyed our 15 days tour of the ancient civilizations. While the archeological sites were awesome two things stood out for me.

An association lunch will be held at the Royal Hotel, North Tce Kent Town on Friday **22nd February 2013** at Noon. Bookings essential to Norm Rathmann at least 1 week prior on **0448 460 884**

Gallipoli. To stand at Anzac Cove and reflect on the achievements of our forefathers was quite emotional. My grandfather was there on day 1 and was wounded in the head. Fortunately, his mate recognized him and took him back to the beach for evacuation. Looking at the ground as a "grunt" it is so hard to imagine the events of 1915 without feeling a sense of anger and frustration at how things eventually turned out. A landing in the planned position would have meant an easier route to the objective. As it was they had no chance. I was impressed by the way the Turks acknowledge and celebrate the campaign with openness and thought for the ANZACs.

Cappadocia is east of Ankara and a very old landscape, weathered and eroded by the elements and time. We were offered a balloon ride in the early morning and although somewhat skeptical about this activity Philippa was insistent so I "went along for the ride". What a great experience. 90 other balloons in the air at the same time.

Anyway, that's enough of that. Stay well and enjoy what you have. Remember the cup half full not the other way around and be thankful for small mercies.

*Alan Hook* - President RSAR Association (Metro)



### Quote of the Day

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

## IMPORTANT - CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS

As of now all mail to the RSAR Association Inc (Metro) should be directed to the following address:-

**The Secretary, David Laing,  
RSAR Association Inc  
c/o Riverglen Marina  
RSD 3152A Jervois Rd  
Murray Bridge SA 5253**

Mail should no longer be sent to the Para Hills address!!!



# ANIMALS IN WAR

## Part 1

Domesticated animals such as dogs, pigs, oxen, camels and horses are used for functions such as transport and bomb detection in today's modern warfare, but animals have served man for many centuries as “Weapons Of War!”

The **HORSE** was the most widely-used animal throughout the recorded history of warfare. Early mounts could pull a chariot or carry lightly armoured skirmishing forces. With the appearance of heavier mounts and the invention of the stirrup, the horse-mounted cavalry became the most prestigious military arm in Europe for several centuries. A knight's warhorse was trained to bite and kick. The combination of the horse-mounted warrior armed with a bow made the steppe people's armies the most powerful military force in Asian history. With the appearance of modern ranged weapons and motorised vehicles, horse use for military purposes fell into decline. However, the horse and the mule are still used extensively by various armies today for transport in difficult terrain.



**ELEPHANTS** can be trained to serve as mounts, or for moving heavy loads. Sanskrit hymns record their use for military purposes as early as 1,100 B.C. A group of elephants was notably employed by Hannibal during the Second Punic War. They were employed as recently as World War II by both the Japanese and Allies. Elephants could perform the work of machines in locations where vehicles could not penetrate, so they found use in the Burma Campaign. War Elephants were used by India, Burma, Persians, the Hellenistic kingdoms, Carthage, the Numidian Kingdoms, and Rome and Carthage



**CAMELS** have typically seen use as mounts in arid regions (Camel cavalry). They are better able to traverse sandy deserts than horses, and require far less water. Camels were employed in both world wars. Camels are used by the Indian Army and Border Security Force for patrolling in the desert regions of Rajasthan.

**MULES** were used by the U.S. Army during World War II to carry supplies and equipment over difficult terrain. Pack animals that are innately patient, cautious, and hardy, mules could carry heavy loads of supplies where Jeeps and even pack horses could not travel. Mules were used in North Africa, Burma, and in Italy. They are also used for transporting supplies in mountainous regions.

**OXEN** have been used widely in war as beasts of burden, especially to transport heavy or siege artillery through heavy terrain. Oxen are commonly castrated adult male cattle; castration makes the animals more tractable, a practice that has been carried out for centuries.

Part 2 next year :-)



## JUST SOLDIERS

## Captain Frank Bethune MC - Part 2

As they moved forward, the group was overtaken by a runner, who informed Bethune that his orders had been changed, his section was to defend Buff Bank. This area was more to Bethune's liking. It was the perfect position for a gun fight. At this time, the Australian and British infantry had been at strength near the guns, but they were moved back to prepare for the attack. This left Bethune's guns dangerously exposed and on their own. With the responsibility for the safety of this section of the line in his hands, Bethune felt it necessary to issue his men with written orders.

They read:

*Special Orders to No 1 Section 13/3/18*

- (1) This position will be held, and the Section will remain here until relieved.*
- (2) The enemy cannot be allowed to interfere with this programme.*
- (3) If the Section cannot remain here alive, it will remain here dead, but in any case it will remain here.*
- (4) Should any man through shell-shock or other cause attempt to surrender, he will remain here dead.*
- (5) Should all guns be blown out, the Section will use Mills grenades and other novelties.*
- (6) Finally, the position, as stated will be held.*

*F.P. Bethune Lt*

*O/c No 1 Section.3*

And hold they did, for 18 days the section repulsed attack after attack. They were subjected to constant artillery barrages of high explosive, shrapnel and gas shells, but they held their ground.

The headquarters of the 1st Division AIF, and later other staffs circulated Bethune's Special Order. To the American forces undergoing training on the Western Front, copies of the order were distributed as 'an admirable model of all that a set of standing trench orders should be'.



Australian soldiers and Stretcher Bearers carry a wounded soldier across the battlefield.

Lieutenant Bethune was awarded the Military Cross for... conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He carried out several daring reconnaissances and obtained most valuable information. Later he fought his machine-guns with great gallantry and fine example to his men.

In the dying days of the great German offensive, Bethune was wounded in both the left knee and the left foot. He was transferred from the field hospital to the 5<sup>th</sup> Auxiliary Hospital, London where he recuperated well, but the wounds left him with a permanent limp.

Lieutenant Bethune pestered the doctors to let him return to the front and in September of 1918 his persistence was rewarded and he embarked for France.

He attended a course at the 4th Army Infantry School for which he received a personal letter from his divisional commander, congratulating him on his excellent report from the school. He was promoted to temporary captain on 23 September 1918 and to substantive captain on 21 October. As the guns fell silent on 11 November, Captain Frank Bethune MC contemplated his future as a civilian.<sup>1</sup> On 28 December 1918, Frank was readmitted to hospital—his old wounds had become infected. On 3 January 1919 he was admitted to the 3rd General Hospital and underwent surgery to amputate the big toe of his left foot. He was subsequently sent to No 2 Command Depot in preparation for his return to Australia. On 16 May 1919, Bethune limped down the gangplank of the troopship Dongola. Home at last, his duty done.

*Next month in "Sitrep, Over!".....Chaplain Alfred Goller, the insubordinate padre.*



You gotta love this Doctor.....



Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: "Heart only good for so many beats, and that it... Don't waste on exercise. Everything wear out eventually. Speeding up heart not make you live longer; it like saying you extend life of car by driving faster. Want to live longer? Take nap!"

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: "Oh no. Wine made from fruit. Brandy distilled wine, that mean they take water out of fruity bit so you get even more of goodness

that way. Beer also made of grain. Bottom up! "

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: "Well, if you have body and you have fat, your ratio one to one. If you have two body, your ratio two to one!"

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A: "Can't think of single one, sorry. My philosophy: No pain...good!"

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

A: "**YOU NOT LISTENING!** Food fried in vegetable oil. How getting more vegetable be bad?"

Q : Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: "Oh no! When you exercise muscle, it get bigger. You should only be doing sit-up if you want bigger stomach."

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: "You crazy?!? HEL-LO-O!! Cocoa bean! Another vegetable! It best feel-good food around! "

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

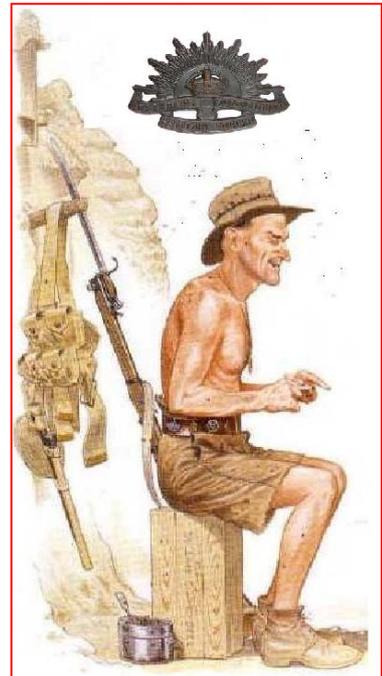
A: "If swimming good for figure, explain whale to me?"

Q: Is getting in shape important for my lifestyle?

A: "Hey! 'Round' is shape! "

Well... I hope this has cleared up any misconceptions you may have had about food and diets.

CPL Knuckles says..



*Me Dad always tried to bring me up right. Here's what he told me!*

Never take an open stubby to a job interview...

Always identify people in your paddocks before shooting at them,

It's tacky to take an Esky to church,

If you have to vacuum the bed, it's time to change the sheets,

Even if you're certain you're included in the will, it's rude to take your ute and trailer to the funeral,

When decanting wine from the box, tilt the paper cup and pour slowly so as not to bruise the wine,

If drinking directly from the bottle, hold it with only one hand,

.....and finally.....

A centrepiece for the dining table should never be anything prepared by a taxidermist..

**See youse next year!!!**

....and even more health tips.....

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Australians.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Australians.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Australians.
4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Australians...
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Australians.

**CONCLUSION?** Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.



HOW TO CONTACT US

All correspondence to:  
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If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail, and have an email address, consider having your newsletter delivered via the internet. Just notify us of your email address.  
It's that easy!



Find us on  
Facebook

....and something light to finish the year.....

1. Such an unfair world. When a man talks dirty to a woman its considered sexual harassment. When a woman talks dirty to a man its \$2.50/ min (charges may vary).
2. If you get an email telling you that you can catch Swine Flu from tins of ham then delete it. It's Spam.
3. The only time the world beats a path to Your door is if you're in the bathroom.
4. Definition of a teenager? God's punishment ... for enjoying sex.
5. It used to be only death and taxes, Now, of course, there's shipping and handling, too.

6. A husband is someone who, after taking the garbage out, gives the impression that he just cleaned the whole house.
7. My next house will have no kitchen - just vending machines and a large trash can.
8. I hate sex in the movies. Tried it once. The seat folded up, the drink spilled and that ice, well, it really chilled the mood.

And finally, a thought for the day.....

*And As You Slide Down that Banister of Life You Should Pray That All The Splinters Are Pointed The Other Way.....*

From the Secretary / Editor David Laing

As we near the end of another year we reflect on our progress, and / or the failures of the past, and ask ourselves, "Could I have done anything better?" MY answer to that question is "Yes!"

I nearly lost one of my daughters in a bad car accident early this year, and now I have resolved to spend as much time with her as I can! My wife lost her Mum to cancer a few weeks ago and she now regrets she lost precious moments with her in her later years!

I guess it's easy for us to say things like that, but harder to put them into practice, and for that reason we must try harder to spend time with the people who really matter in our lives!

And it's not just family who matter! Our friends are who make us what we are, and without them we are just lonely old people! We should embrace our friends and family while we can, before they are taken from us altogether!

I was surfing the internet and I found an old high school mate who I hadn't seen for over 40 years. We were like brothers at school and got into heaps of strife together! He served in Vietnam with the Engineers and lives in Victoria with his wife. We have now stayed at each others houses and we send emails and talk on the phone weekly, just catching up on those lost years and "using up all our words!"

Our Association lost some good mates this year, in Colin Douglas and Bill Hately, both long serving stalwarts of the Regiment. I had numerous letters and emails from members saying they wish they'd caught up with Col or Bill earlier on, but that time has passed and we will never have that opportunity again.

My advice to all, for what it's worth, is don't put off friendships or acquaintances until it's too late! The time to pick up the phone, or call in and see them is NOW! Take the time to catch up while you still can. The seemingly important things can wait!

Have a great festive season, and drive safely.

I'll see you on the other side!

Cheers

David Laing



The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some damned good ideas!



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc (Metro)

# 2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

Details and timings of all events will be advertised in "Sitrep, Over!"



CONTACT US AT:-  
 The Secretary RSAR Association (Metro)  
 Riverglen Marina  
 RSD 3152A  
 Jervois Rd  
 Murray Bridge  
 SA 5253  
 Phone: 0407 791 822  
 Email: [davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com)



## Schedule of Events

- 25th January - CoM Meeting  
Noon @ Torrens Training Depot
- 22nd February - **RSARA Lunch**  
Noon @ Royal Hotel, 2 North Tce Kent Town
- 24th March - **FUNCTION 1**  
Sunday TBA
- **ANZAC Day**—25th April (Includes lunch at Queens Head Hotel)
- 24th May - CoM Meeting  
Noon @ Torrens Training Depot
- 28th June - **RSARA Lunch**  
Noon @ Royal Hotel, 2 North Tce Kent Town
- 28th July - **FUNCTION 2**  
Sunday -Timings TBA
- 4th August - **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SUNDAY LUNCH** included. Venue TBA
- 27th September - CoM Meeting  
Noon @ Torrens Training Depot
- 25th October - **RSARA Lunch**  
Noon at Royal Hotel, 2 North Tce Kent Town
- 24th November - **FUNCTION 3**  
Sunday - Timings TBA
- 15th December - **CHRISTMAS BBQ** - Location TBA
- **Details of ALL events will be advised in "Sitrep, Over!"**

**RSAR Association  
 Incorporating personnel from  
 1 RSAR, 10 RSAR, 27 RSAR,  
 43 RSAR, 10/27 RSAR & all  
 attached units.**



January						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

CoM Meeting

February						
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RSARA LUNCH

March						
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FUNCTION 1

April						
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29	30					

ANZAC DAY 2013

May						
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CoM Meeting

June						
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RSARA LUNCH

July						
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29	30	31				

FUNCTION 2

August						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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AGM

September						
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30						

CoM Meeting

October						
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28	29	30	31			

RSARA LUNCH

November						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

FUNCTION 3

December						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

CHRISTMAS BBQ