

JUNE 2019



"Sitrep, Over!"

To Perpetuate the Regiment

ANZAC DAY 2019

Hi David,

We had 24 RSARA association members turn up for the Anzac Day march. We assembled in the usual spot and two volunteers were carrying our banner. One was Bob Cotton and as our step off time got close we shook out into a very tidy formation. As our President is incapacitated right now the formation was led by the "banner" party and they did a sterling job.

It was noticeable how well our group marched and with some minimal "left ,right, left" prompting we remained in step for the distance. As we passed the War Memorial, Government House and the Saluting Dias our "eyes right" was performed with parade ground precision and our Association banner was lowered accordingly.

Barry Pollard followed right behind our group in a Jeep (see picture) and come to think about it this was one of the reasons why we marched so well. Has anyone ever tried to keep step if Barry is in the formation, and I go back to his recruit training days where I was his Platoon Sergeant and spent a whole 6 months trying to get him coordinated. I failed. After the march some members went back to TTD for a catch up and a few drinks and after all of the controversy associated with this function it looked like it was going extremely well. **Chris Acton**



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Special points of interest:

- ANZAC Day photos from all over SA. Thanks to Des Hawkins, Chris Acton and Lyndon Gaborit for taking the time to send them in.
- Special memories of the Service to remember Don Field and the wake. Just like to good ole days a Alberton. Page 8

ANZAC Day 2019



LEFT: Barry Pollard gets a lift for the march.

BELOW: The Association forming up prior to the Adelaide 2019 ANZAC Day march



ANZAC Day 2019



LEFT: John Harrison from WA and Lyndon Gaborit.



ABOVE: Alan Orrock OAM and Mike Hudson.

BELOW: Peter Salamon and Bob Boscence.





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6 RAR march through Brisbane on their return
from South Vietnam in 1967

Anti Vietnam War protests in Adelaide in 1971



Vietnam - Truth or Myth?

I read an article in a recent Saturday Advertiser about a new book that had been published on the Vietnam War. In the book the author was questioning the level of anti-war sentiment during the Vietnam war, saying there may have been a red-paint-throwing incident during a welcome home march, but it was on only one occasion, and was an isolated incident. The author also said that some or most of the Infantry Battalions had a "welcome home parade."

I had heard differently from colleagues and other sources over the years, but decided to find out from a Vietnam veteran who is also a good mate.

We spent a few hours at the RSL, this time working the other side of the bar for a 50th birthday celebration. During the night I asked him a few questions.

The first being, "Did you experience any anti-war sentiment when you returned from Vietnam. He answered: "When our battalion marched through the streets of Townsville on our homecoming, some threw red paint at us and spat at us. I remember people booing us as we marched by. Some of us felt like breaking ranks and retaliating, but our Sergeant said "Just keep marching boys. They can't help their ignorance!"

I also recall a friend, Ashley, from my high school years who was called up as a Nasho. He went off to fight in Vietnam, and when he returned to Adelaide with his mates, they were all so proud to march in their first ANZAC Day march as former soldiers. The day after ANZAC Day there was a front page article in the Advertiser, and a photo of Ash, in civilian suit, covered in red paint, brawling with a protester during the march. The journalist had a field day condemning the servicemen for beating up "defenceless" civilians, and called for harsh penalties against all those who had "ruined the ANZAC heritage!"

A magistrate thought more laterally and let Ash and his mates off with a warning, but it still left a sour taste in the mouths of all those who had put their lives on the line for their country.

So I guess the message here is, don't believe everything you read, not even from accredited so-called authors. And maybe don't believe everything I say either. The facts are on the internet, and it's an easy process to find out the REAL truth. Don't listen to anyone if you have doubts about the validity of their sources.

I know for a fact my mate Ashley had red paint thrown over him and his mates. I've seen the photos.

I have no doubt my RSL mate had red paint thrown over him and his battalion as they marched through Townsville, and that they were booed by parts of the crowd, as I believe his recollections.

You should make up your own minds about this shameful part of our history.

LEST WE FORGET

David Laing - Editor

ANZAC Day in Renmark

RSARA Historian Des Hawkins was in Renmark for ANZAC Day 2019, and sent this photo in. He wrote "About 350 turned up for the Renmark Dawn service – and about 800 or so for the 10.30 service and march thru town. World War 2 veteran Harry Lock led the march even though he is now in a wheelchair.



Letter to the Editor

Dear David

As I have no way of thanking them all individually, I was wondering if you could thank for me, all those former Army mates who attended Don's funeral service and after at his wake at the Edinburgh Hotel.

I spoke to a lot of them but I'm sure I missed some out. Please convey my thanks to them all for their time, support and friendship.

Kindest regards

Shirley Field

ANZAC DAY in Mount Gambier

RSARA member Tex Ranger OAM visited Mount Gambier for their ANZAC Day commemorations. He sent in these photos.



ABOVE: The Mt Gambier ANZAC Day Veterans March.
(Head & eyes to the front, Tex!)

LEFT: Max Carmichael, Max Ruwoldt and Tex Ranger before the march.



ABOVE: The Catafalque Party from 10/27 Battalion RSAR formed up on the Memorial at The Cenotaph.



LEFT: Part of the large crowd at The Cenotaph

BELOW: Dignitaries including Federal Member for Barker, Tony Pasin MP attended the ANZAC Day Commemoration Service.



Remembering Major Don Field (Retd)



Over 400 people attended the celebration of the life of Major Don Field (Retd) at Centennial Park on Monday 29th April. The Regiment was represented by Sergeant Mark Blondell (Left with the Editor) who had only met Don on one previous occasion at the End Of Year BBQ at Keswick Barracks in 2018. Sergeant Blondell said he was humbled to be amongst so many former soldiers from the Regiment.

Don's sons spoke fondly of their happy lives growing up, and of Don's military prowess in everything he did.

After the service, at the invitation of Mrs Shirley Field, a number of mourners attended the Edinburgh Hotel for a few drinks, some nibbles and a lot of old stories.

A large number of former A Coy Alberton soldiers were there, including officers, NCOs and ORs.

LEST WE FORGET



OLD SOLDIERS

TOP: From Left. LCPL Graham Elliott, SSGT Barry Johnston, WO2 Jim Thomson, WO2 Ian Carnachan, SGT Des Hawkins, SGT Peter Salmon & CPL David Laing.

A PHOTO FROM THE PAST

LEFT: From Left. Lyndon Gaborit, Ian Carnachan, the late Don Field, John Harrison and the late Trevor Phillips. Brothers in Arms Forever.



ANZAC Day in Murray Bridge

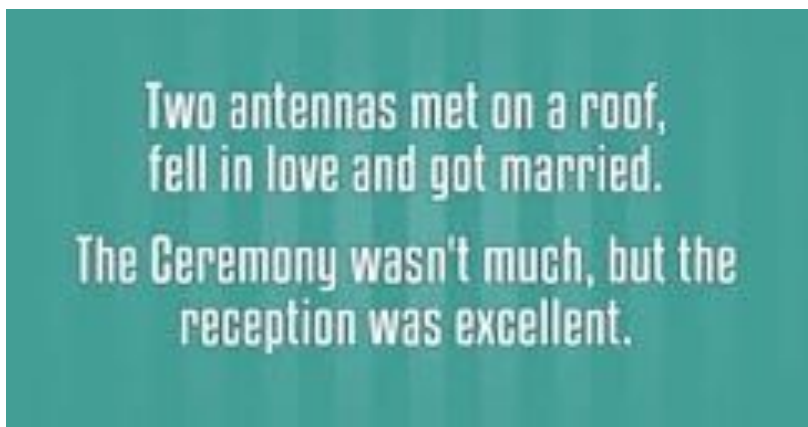
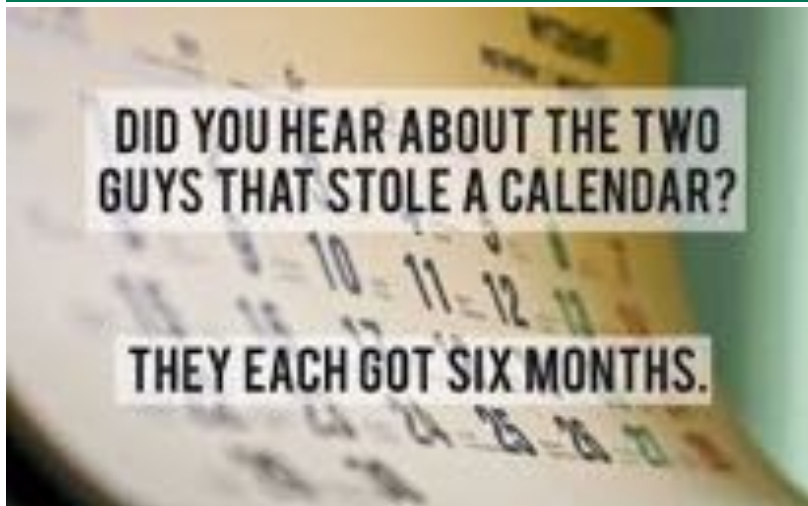


TOP & BOTTOM: The crowd of nearly 2,000 at the Murray Bridge Dawn Service on the banks of the Murray River.

RIGHT: MC David Laing addresses the audience



CPL DAVE'S PAGE



This is TRUE.....

Just after Christmas my eyelids started to bulge, and they became all puffed up. I went to one Doctor and he said I should take some ant-histamines, which I did. No change.. I went to another Doctor who prescribed some cream that was so expensive I think it contained plutonium. No change. I went to a skin specialist who said I should stop taking one of my medications and it would clear up. It didn't! I went to MY doctor who referred me to a number of other "specialists" to sort out my ailment. My eyelids are still puffy and I'm getting a bit peeved at everyone I meet asking what's wrong with my eyes! I've covered my tracks by learning Korean, just in case, but I think I've worked out what I'm allergic to.

Doctors!

This is TRUE, but you gotta laugh!

