



"Sitrep, Over!"



SEPTEMBER 2015

MEMBERS VISIT WARRADALE BARRACKS WTTS



The Weapons Training Simulation System (WTSS) is a virtual weapons range designed to allow soldiers to practice weapon handling drills, marksmanship principles and fire control orders. The facility also allows soldiers to fire a wide variety of weapons including the F88 Steyr rifle, F89 Minimi Light Support Weapon and the 84mm Carl Gustav anti-armour weapon.

On Tuesday 1st September 14 members of the RSAR Association paid a visit to Warradale Barracks and took part in some target practice at the WTTS Facility.

Prior to entering the WTTS, the members were given a demonstration by soldiers from 3 FD SQDN on how to locate an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) using one of the Army's Minelab Explosives Detectors. Some members were lucky enough to have a go themselves, and remarked how hard it was holding the device and concentrating on the ground cover.

The group then moved into the WTTS where they fired the F88 Steyr and were surprised at the modern way in which our soldiers are trained. The WTTS is fully automated and computerized, and allows realistic shooting scenarios to be carried out, all without live ammunition. After the oldies had their fun, they were shown how REAL soldiers use the facility, with 5 diggers from 3 FD SQDN taking up fire positions to counter an enemy threat.

After the demonstrations the group moved down to the "Rats Nest", the aptly named



soldiers canteen facility, where they were provided with a BBQ dinner, courtesy of 3 FD SQDN, and a few beers courtesy of Rod Beames PMCs card.

OC 3FD SQDN Major Sam Benveniste welcomed the RSAR Association to Warradale Barracks and said he was determined to have closer ties with the Association, and was certain the Engineers and the Infantry could work well together, as they had done in the past, and none better than on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rod Beames thanked CO 10/27 Bn LTCOL Graham Goodwin for helping the tour to take place, and thanked the soldiers of 10/27 Bn and 3 FD SQDN for their courtesy and support during the demonstrations and the BBQ afterwards.

We all thank Beamsey for setting it up in the first place.

Inside this issue:

Just Soldiers - WO2 Bolton- Wood	2
LETTERS	3
Japan Tour offer for RSARA members	4 & 8
A letter from our Patron	4
A Missing Plaque Comes Home	5
AGM Report	6
Members List	7

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Just Soldiers

WO2 Noel Eric Bolton-Wood

Part 4

In the meantime, unbeknown to Eric, his mother had written to Army Headquarters back home in Australia and implored the authorities to remove Eric from active duty. In a heartfelt letter, she explained how she had already lost two sons and Eric was her only surviving child. Her request was denied, the authorities stating, 'There are no distressful circumstances surrounding the case'.

As the tempo of the desert campaign escalated, it was found that the camels were too slow to keep up so the decision was made to disband the corps. The cameleers were not happy that they would be separated from their four-legged 'friends'. However, their performance as members of the Camel Corps was something of which they could all be proud and they were confident they were equal to the challenges that lay ahead when they took up their new postings with the 14th and 15th Light Horse Regiments.



Greece, 1941

The results of an air raid

The ANZAC troopers endured a scorching summer as the campaign progressed across the Jordan Valley. As well as the intolerable heat, the Diggers had to exist on a diet of greasy bully beef and stinking water from Arab wells, but they had the enemy on the run and were determined to maintain the pressure—unsatisfactory living conditions were of little consequence. In early October 1918, Eric's regiment was assembled on parade and advised that those who had enlisted in 1914 would be sent home to Australia on furlough. Eric knew he met the criteria to go home, but felt to leave now would be letting his mates down. He then considered his Mum and how much it would mean to her to know he was safe back home. With that thought in mind, he got out his kit bag and started to pack his gear. Before leaving

the regiment, and still a month shy of 19, Eric was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two.

Amid the streamers being thrown by the enthusiastic well-wishers and to the loud music being played by the band on the pier, Eric strode down the gangway of the troopship Devon as she docked in Sydney. Waiting for him was his mother—dressed in black and looking much older than Eric remembered her. He wasted no time pushing through the crowd to reach her. She hugged Eric with an intensity that not only showed the delight she felt at seeing her youngest boy, but displayed the magnitude of the grief she felt for the two sons who would never return. Eric was discharged as medically unfit on 16 December 1918.

After the war, Eric married his sweetheart, Marjory, and the couple took up farming on the outskirts of Windsor in New South Wales. They had five children, three boys and two girls—the eldest boy was named Robert, in memory of one of Eric's brothers.

The family tried to work the land through the difficult years of the Depression, but the venture was unsuccessful. Subsequently, Eric sought work as a commercial traveller and moved his family to the Sydney suburb of Kingsford.

A little more than twenty years after the signing of the Armistice and the end of the Great War, Germany again was engaged in acts of aggression on her European neighbours. By September 1939, Australia was once more at war. In June 1940, Eric marched into the barracks at Paddington to enlist for service in the 2nd AIF. He was allocated to the Army Service Corps and posted to the 1st Corps Ammunition Sub Park. He soon settled back into the routine of army life and in August of that year he was made acting corporal. His unit embarked for the Middle East on the 14 September 1940 and a month later arrived at Haifa, a large Mediterranean seaport in northwest Israel. Eric was promoted to substantive corporal in November 1940.

Part 5 next month

By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, Just Soldiers, ADCC Publications, Brisbane, pg 27 to 34

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi David

I just want to pass on to all those involved in organising the WTTS evening at Warradale how much I enjoyed it. I'm sure everyone who attended was impressed with the facility, and especially with the professional but friendly approach of the soldiers from 10/27 Battalion and 3 Field Squadron.

Regards

Colin Phillips

LETTER TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER 10/27 BN RSAR

Hello Graham,

A BIG thank you from all those members of the RSAR Association who attended the WTTS shoot and tour of 3 Field Sqn last evening. It was truly an eye opening experience for us.

The hospitality shown to us by MAJ Sam Benveniste, CAPT Andrew Harvey and their team was outstanding and well appreciated. Sam continued your move towards a closer working relationship between the different Associations now under one umbrella. The RAE Association and RSAR Association can be a useful resource for the serving units and we will be stronger by working together.

While some of our scores left a lot of room for improvement, we all left on a "high". The conduct of the shoot, the demonstrations of the unit in action and the scenario of finding a planted explosive device may not have been on the training schedule for last night but the team must be congratulated for their conduct and professionalism.

I personally appreciated your visit and words of introduction for the evening and can only pass on the gratitude of the members present.

Thankyou again.

Regards,

Rod Beames

President RSAR Association Inc

OUR COAT OF ARMS



The first granting of armorial bearings to the Commonwealth of Australia was made in 1908. A new design was granted by Royal Warrant on 19 September 1912.

The branches of wattle used as an ornamental accessory to the shield, representing the badges of the six States as they were in 1912, were not mentioned in the blazon, but were depicted in the coloured illustration included in the gazettal of the Australian armorial bearings. There are conventional versions of the bearings for formal printing and other formal media. The wattle depicted has clusters of spherical flower heads coloured yellow and blue-grey, and green phyllodes characteristic of many species of *Acacia*.

It is not a botanically accurate representation of *A. pycnantha*. Stylised versions are also used:

Visit Japan - Land of the Rising Sun

It's very fitting that on the 70th anniversary of the end of WW2 in the Pacific, we can bring you a little closer to our former enemy, Japan.

Phil Brookes is a QLD based member of the RSAR Association, and has supported us through various donations over the past 3 years. See more about Phil below.

He is hosting a trip to Japan in September 2016, and has undertaken to donate \$100 for every RSAR Association member who books a place on that tour. For every husband and wife team, we will benefit to the tune of \$200.



Phil Brookes is a South Australian living in Queensland and served in 10th Bn Royal South Australian Regiment before joining the regular Army in 1967 and serving until 1987. He served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.

Phil has extensive experience in planning and leading high quality, tailored tours to Vietnam, China and France and led the In the Steps of Heroes Anzac centenary tour to France this year. His Grocers and Gunners tours to Vietnam have become a benchmark for quality and exceptional pricing.

Prior to his retirement Phil was a Business Manager for the Queensland Department of State Development, Trade Division. In this role, Phil accompanied trade delegations to Scandinavia, Europe and Asia. He has worked and lived in China and Vietnam.

*Phil has a wide network of travel and hospitality professionals across Europe and Asia. This network, together with his travel experience, provides a range of insights to ensure a positive and personalised travel experience. His latest overseas tour will be to Japan in 2016, and you can see details of this on **Page 8** of this newsletter.*

Letter to the President

Mr Rodney Beames
President RSAR Association Inc
c/o the Secretary

Dear Rod

I note the outcome of the recent Annual General Meeting of the Association that elected me as Patron of the Association for a period of three years. I am delighted to accept this nomination and I look forward to working even closer with you and the members of the Association to achieve our aim of support for the Battalion and the Regiment.

The Association has achieved a great deal, particularly in the centenary year and there is much more to be done.

I look forward to the challenges ahead.

Pro Patria

Neil Wilson
Major General AM, RFD

If you're over 60, like me, here's some wise words for ya!

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet!

I don't need anger management. I need people to stop pissing me off!

Old age is coming at a really bad time!

When I was a child I thought Nap Time was a punishment ... now, as a grown up, it just feels like a small vacation!

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

Lord grant me the strength to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change things I can and the friends to post my bail when I finally snap!

I don't have grey hair. I have "wisdom highlights". I'm just very wise beyond my years

Hehe, See yas next month!



Private Gomad reckons.....

PLAQUE MISSING. PLAQUE FOUND. PLAQUE RETURNED HOME

About 7 weeks ago I received an email from a gentleman called Mr Don Flower in Victoria about a plaque he had seen for sale in a Bendigo 2nd Hand Shop. The plaque was obviously commemorating the laying up of the Colours of the 43rd and 2/43rd Battalions in a South Australian cathedral in 1995. Don felt the plaque was somehow "taken" from its rightful place, and should not be part of a private collection. We agreed.

How the plaque came to be in a pawn shop in Victoria is unknown, but we felt it had to come home. One way or another.

Emails to Don Hawking, Doug Strain and others were hastily exchanged to bring the plaque home, but it had to be done before it was sold to someone else for its scrap value. Don Flower graciously consented to buy the plaque on the Regiment's behalf, and we vowed to repay him the full cost.

In the mean time, the Catholic Church in Adelaide heard about our quest and said they would pay for the plaque and its postage back to Adelaide, and to the cathedral where it belongs. Ursula Paul from the Office of the Archbishop of Adelaide arranged for the plaque to "come home." Don sent the email below, with the good news.

Hí David / Don

Ursula from the Archbishops Office has contacted me and I have organized with her that I will package and get a price for postage to her office.

They will reimburse me by bank transfer.

So in the end all sorted.

Ursula said to pass her contact details on to both of you if you have any further questions.

Thanks for your help, at least it will be back where it belongs.

Regards

Don Flower

We at the RSAR Association wholeheartedly thank Mr Flower and Ursula Paul for their good sense in making this good story happen.



HOW TO CONTACT US

The Royal South Australia
Regiment Association Inc

All correspondence to:-

RSAR Association

The Secretary David Laing

Riverglen Marina RSD 3152A

White Sands

S.A. 5253

davidlaing49@bigpond.com

0407 791 822



We're also on the Web!

Find us at:

www.rsara.asn.au

2015 AGM REPORT

On 9th August 2015 the AGM of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc was held at the SA Sea Rescue Squadron, Barcoo Rd West Beach.

The Minutes of the AGM are available by contacting the Secretary.

Main points to come out of the meeting were:

1. Election of Officers resulted in David Hope joining the Committee as Assistant Treasurer, to assist Alan Orrock for 12 months. David will officially take over from Alan at the next AGM.
2. No nominations were forthcoming for the Secretaries position, therefore David Laing will remain as Secretary until a replacement is found. (It is hoped someone from the Battalion can take up this role.)
3. The Secretary reports the Association is in a strong position and that membership has more than quadrupled in the past 5 years. This can be put down to more interaction with the Battalion and constant updating of the website and Facebook page.
4. The Treasurer reports the bank balance of the RSAR Association is looking very healthy, and despite considerable outlays for Battalion expenses over the past year, the balance has continued to improve. A Financial Statement is available from the Treasurer by contacting the Secretary.
5. Annual Fees will remain the same for 2015/16.
6. Two serving members of 10/27 RSAR have been confirmed to join the committee as of now. They are SGT David Portakiewicz and CPL Mark Blondell.
7. Alan Hook has been taken on board as Association Pensions/Advocacy Officer.
8. The members accepted the motion to install MAJGEN Neil Wilson as Patron of the RSAR Association Inc.
9. The meeting voted to donate \$200 to the SA Sea Rescue Squadron for allowing us to use their Function Rooms for AGMs over the past 7 years free of charge.
10. The 2016 AGM will be held at the same location on 7th August 2016.

The Band of the 10/27th Battalion RSAR to return to Murray Bridge for a 2nd Concert



In March this year the Band of the 10/27 Battalion performed at a sold out concert at the Murray Bridge Town Hall, netting the RSAR Association and the Murray Bridge RSL Sub Branch a profit of \$2,000 each. This money was put to good use by purchasing instruments for the band and for part building of a new lounge area at the RSL.

Due to the success of this concert, the Band has agreed to return to Murray Bridge early next year and once again perform some of your favourite music.

The date is tentatively set at 3rd April 2016, from 1500 hrs to 1800 hrs. That's 3 hours of music for only \$15.00. Intermission refreshments included.

The concert this year was sold out, with many folk being turned away at the door. If you would like to attend this brilliant concert you should reserve your place now by contacting the Secretary of the RSAR Association. Tickets will go on sale in the Murraylands and Adelaide in early January, but if you get in now you can pre-book your seats. **WAIT AND MISS OUT!**

MEMBERS

Abareh, Wadi **SM**
 #Abel, Colin
 Acton, Chris
 Adams, Aaron **SM**
 Apostolides, Chris
 Attenborough, Geoff
 Ayles, Jeff
 Baldwin, Bob
 Bampton, Michael **BAND**
 Barnaart, Philip
 Bates, Allan
 Beames, Rod **CoM**
 Beckett, David **LM SM**
 Bennet, Graham
 Benveniste, Sam **SM**
 Bilsborow, Jason **SM**
 Blackmore, William
 Blake, Sam **SM**
 Blondell, Mark **SM CoM**
 Bloomfield, Max
 Bourne, Ian **SM**
 Boath, Ian
 Boothroyd, Lincoln **SM**
 Boscence, Bob
 Bras, Riley **SM**
 Broadbent, Robert **SM**
 Brookes, Phil
 Brown, Bruce
 Brown, Harry
 Burton, Ray
 #Buttars, Erik
 Carnachan, Ian
 Chittleborough, Jeff
 Clyne, Lachlan **SM**
 Cooke, Nat **CoM**
 Contibas, Nikolaus **SM**
 Cotton, Bob
 Cram, Kevin
 Dart, John
 Davey, John (Jack)
 Davey, Trevor
 Dawson, Trevor **BAND**
 Del Vecchio, Victor
 Demasi, Nathan **SM**
 Demosani, Tony
 Domanski, Glenn
 Dubsky, Eddie
 Dunn, Peter
 Dunn, Bob
 Dunn, Jeff
 Durdin, Russell
 Durrant, Chris
 Edson, Roger
 Elliott, Graham
 Elliss, Scott **SM**
 Eva, Keith
 Ewens, Mimi **SM**
 Field, Don
 Flanagan, Ted
 Friday, Ross

Gaborit, Lyndon **LM**
 Genovese, John
 Gibson, Lindsay
 Giles, John
 Gill, Graham
 Gilmore, Graham **CoM**
 Gordon, Frank
 Hardy, Robert **SM**
 Harrington, Malcolm
 Harrison, John
 Hawking, Don
 Hawkins, Des
 Haynes, Scott
 Hewitt, Emily **BAND**
 Hogan, Mark **LM**
 Hook, Alan **LM CoM**
 Hope, David **CoM**
 Horseman, Ian **LM**
 Hudson, Mick
 Hudson, Rick
 Humphrys, Jesse **SM CoM**
 James, Grant **SM CoM**
 Jeffrey, Scott **SM**
 Johnson, Barry **LM**
 Jolly, David
 Jones, Brett
 Keenan, Alan
 Kilford, Brian
 Klopff, Alex **LM**
 Klopff, Paul
 Koop, Joshua **BAND**
 Laing, David **LM CoM**
 Lampard, Ross
 Lee, Bob
 Lee, Pat
 Lloyd, Elmer
 Lockett, John
 Longstaff, Paul
 Loveder, Peter
 Main, Brian
 Marcus, Ray
 Martin, Bob
 Matchett, Bill
 Mau, Mark
 McCulloch, Don
 McGree, Barry
 McLachlan, Joshua **SM**
 McMahon, Tyler **SM**
 McMullin, Jim
 Meissner, Terry **SM**
 Milde, Peter **SM**
 Mitchell, Barry
 Mitchell, David
 Morony, Frank **CoM**
 Moore, Jeffrey
 Moore, Terry **LM**
 Moschis, James **SM**
 Munro, Ron
 Oliver, Peter
 Orrock, Alan **CoM**
 Ockenden, Marc
 Oswald, John
 Pach, Chol **SM**

Paul, John
 Perkins, Bob
 Pollard, Barry
 Portakiewicz, Anthony **BAND**
 Portakiewicz, David **BAND CoM**
 Phillips, Don
 Phillips, Colin
 Phillips, Trevor
 Payne, Bob
 Parslow, Howard
 Preece, Brian
 Rado, Stephen
 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**
 Slattery, Kimberly **BAND**
 Sniedze, Julie **BAND**
 Sprigg, Rob
 Staker, Cameron **SM**
 Standing, Michael **CoM**
 Stone, Eddie
 Strain, Doug
 Steer, Phil
 Stewart, Rob **LM**
 Stuart, Matthew **SM**
 Tiller, Garth
 Thomson, Jim
 Tolotta, Tarrant **SM**
 Tompkins, Ian
 Tregenza, Norm **CoM**
 Trezise, George
 Tucker, Belinda **BAND**
 Ullrich, Andreas **SM**
 Vella, Joe
 Wake, Stephen
 Waters, Ian **LM**
 Weepers, Nicole **BAND**
 Weightman, Aidan **SM**
 Westover, Rhys
 Wheeler, Chris
 Williams, Darrian **SM**
 Wilson, Graham **LM**
 Wilson, Neil
 Wood, George
 Woore, Phillip
 Yorke-Simpkin Reg **LM**
 Zuromski, Paul **SM**

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

#Abel, Karen
 Ayles, Denise
 Beames, Cheryl

Carnachan, Dom
 Dart, Caroline
 Demosani, Gail
 Elliott, Julie
 Eva, Gail
 Field, Shirley
 Gatley, Graeme
 Gill, Maureen
 Gilmour, Helen
 Hawking, Lorraine
 Hook, Phillipa
 Hudson, Margaret
 Jolly, Sandra
 Klopff, Josie
 Laing, June
 Lampard, Kay
 Main, Raelene
 Marcus, Yvonne
 Lee, Anne
 Mitchell, Roma
 Phillips, Heather
 Sanderson, Lorraine
 Tregenza, Lyn

HONORARY MEMBERS

G. Goodwin CO 10/27 RSAR
 T. Moore ADJT 10/27 RSAR
 M. Reyne RSM 10/27 RSAR

LM denotes **LIFE MEMBER**
SM denotes **SERVING ADF MEMBER**

BAND denotes serving 10/27 Band member

Denotes **NEW MEMBER**

209 members as at 19/8/15

This month we welcome new members Erik Buttars and Colin and Karen Abel. Erik served with 1 RSAR in the 60's, and Colin was posted to numerous units in his 20 years of service, including 10 RSAR, 9 Tpt Sqdn and 4 MD Keswick. Colin brings his wife Karen on board as an Associate Member. We welcome them all to our fold, and know they will fit in well.

209 and STILL GROWING!

JAPAN-LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Grocers and Gunners

17 Days Fully Escorted Tour from Australia

Tokyo-Hakone (Mt Fuji)-Takayama-Shirakawago-Kanazawa-Kyoto-Hiroshima

14 – 30 September 2016



Join Phil and Marilyn Brookes on our fully escorted tour of fascinating Japan. Phil has been planning and leading high quality tours to Vietnam, China and France since 2009.

This tour provides a taste of the fascinating and ancient Japanese culture as well as experiencing the diversity of Japanese cities and towns, from the modern metropolis of **Tokyo** to the peaceful countryside of **Takayama** and the ancient traditions of **Kyoto**.

You will fly direct from either Sydney or Brisbane direct to Tokyo with Qantas Airways. Those travelling from Adelaide, Melbourne or Canberra will link with the Sydney flight to Tokyo at no extra cost. All your five star hotels have been selected for their comfort and convenience to places of interest. Internal travel is by luxury coach and fast train.

Tokyo is a montage of the traditional and modern. It's a surprisingly green city with beautiful gardens, shrines and temples mixed with the upmarket shopping of the **Ginza** – wander here for hours - to the non-stop, pulsating night life. Our Tokyo visit will include the Meiji Shrine, Imperial Palace Plaza and the East Garden, Edo Museum and Asakusa Senso-ji temple.

Other highlights of your tour include a visit to **Hakone national park** and **Mt Fuji**, Japan's highest peak. Here you can

indulge yourself in the Hyatt Regency Resort Hotel onsite hot springs or spa. We also visit Kyoto, a city rich in culture and history. As the capital of Japan for over 1,000 years, Kyoto accumulated an unparalleled and priceless collection of palaces temples and shrines, built by emperors, shoguns and monks. We travel to Hiroshima and its Peace Memorial Park, **Miyajima Island** and the red *torii* (gate). A change of pace will be a visit to the **Toyota factory** in Nagoya and one of Japan's famous **sake breweries** (Gekkeikan), Kyoto.

Our tour also includes the very traditional Takayama and its old town as well as the remote UNESCO classified area of **Shirakawa-go**, visiting traditional Japanese villages, a paper making demonstration together with local folk dancing and music. In **Kanazawa** we visit Kenroku-en Garden; Samurai Houses; experience a tea ceremony and participate in an amazing Taiko drumming display. A highlight will be a visit to the Geisha house district.

This well priced, fully escorted tour includes international and internal fares, entrance fees, accommodation in well located four and five star hotels with all western buffet breakfasts and five dinners. You will have time in Tokyo at your own leisure to explore this fascinating and vibrant city.

The tour price is \$8995.00 per person twin share and is based on a maximum of 20 participants.

Single room supplement is \$2250.00.