

“Sitrep, Over!”



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

PATRON: MAJGEN NEIL WILSON AM RFD

EDITOR: DAVID LAING

AUGUST 2026

AUGUST 18th 1966 The Battle of Long Tan

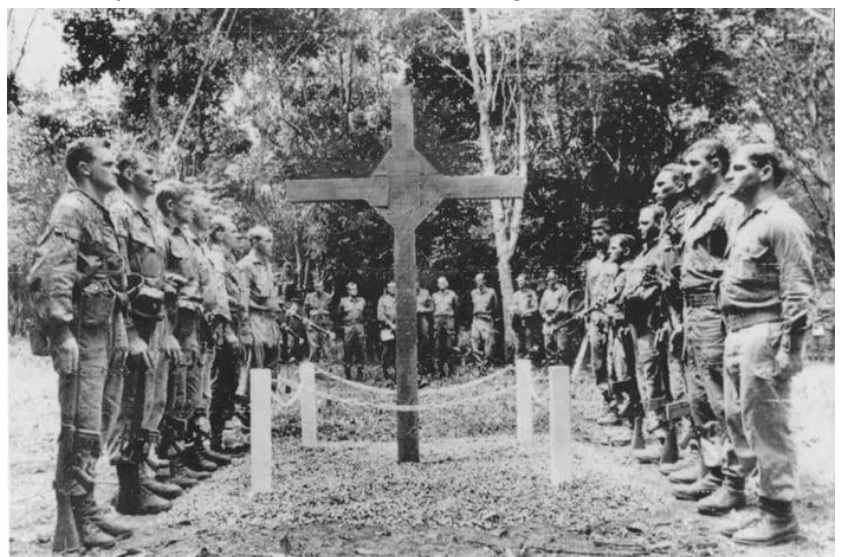
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60 years ago, on August 18th 1966, one of the fiercest battles fought by Australian troops in South Vietnam took place.

Delta Company of 6 RAR became involved in a firefight with Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars, numbering about 2,500 men, in a rubber plantation near the hamlet of Long Tan.

The story and those who fell are on Page 3-5



Hard copies of this newsletter kindly printed by the Office of Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC MP
Senator for SA



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EDITORIAL

The Annual General Meeting for 2026 is to be conducted at the Avoca Hotel on Sunday 2nd August at 1100 hrs. If you haven't reserved your seat by now, you need to do so ASAP by contacting the President David Laing. It's important, so see you there.

The Battle of Long Tan was a significant engagement during Australia's involvement in South Vietnam. 18 brave Australians paid the supreme sacrifice, for the cost of over 250 NVA regulars and Viet Cong lives. The story of their heroism and the cost of that battle are on Page 3-5.

But another battle in August involved our own 10th Battalion when they formed part of the Australian 2nd Division during the Battle of Amiens in 1918. That battle is featured this month on Page 10-12.

Sapper Kieran Peters from 3 Field Squadron RAE was the recipient of the 7th New Arrivals Pack from the RSAR Association recently. Story and pic on Page 14.

Another significant date in August is the 81st anniversary of the end of the Second World War in the Pacific, which occurred on the 15th August 1945. Sadly there are very few folk left who can tell us about that memorable day, however we bring you the brief story of the battles and the surrender of the Japanese forces on Page 15-18.

Every year on the first Sunday of August we conduct our Annual General Meeting, at the Avoca Hotel, and we meet to make decisions and afterwards to make merry. With that merriment comes the realization that our Annual fees are again due, so if you haven't paid since the last AGM, now is the time to send your \$10 or \$30 to the Bank Account named in the left hand column. May I remind our Serving Members that your first year is FREE, but every other year whilst still serving is \$10 per year. It's only a small amount but it helps us achieve our goals of supporting the Battalion, and you can assist this goal by contributing each August. To the Old & Bold, if you haven't paid your \$30 since last year, please do so at your earliest opportunity. Your annual fees allow us to keep doing what we do, and for that, we thank you.

The photos of this years AGM will be in next month's edition

That's it for this month. Stay well and stay safe.

David

THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN



On 18 August 1966 Delta Company of 6 Battalion, The Royal Australia Regiment (6RAR) was patrolling in the area of the Long Tan rubber plantation when, at about 3.15pm, the lead platoon (11 Platoon, commanded by 2Lt Gordon Sharp, a national serviceman) encountered a small group of Viet Cong who fled leaving one of their number killed by the Australians. The aggressive patrolling continued until, at about 4.08pm, the main body of the Viet Cong 275 Regiment was encountered. The Viet Cong attacked vigorously with mortars, rifle and machine gun fire.

In pouring rain, the Australians returned fire with platoon weapons and artillery which was firing from the Nui Dat base, some five kilometres to the west. Close air support was also called for but couldn't be used because the target was unable to be identified accurately in the conditions.

At 5pm D Company's commander, Major Harry Smith, radioed for ammunition resupply. Two RAAF *Iroquois* helicopters which happened to be at Nui Dat to transport a concert party were tasked and flew at tree top level into the battle area where they successfully delivered the sorely needed boxes of ammunition.

The combination of aggressive fire from D Company soldiers plus devastating artillery fire from Nui Dat had swung the battle in the Australians' favour but the Viet Cong continued to manoeuvre to gain the upper hand. Meanwhile, A Company of 6RAR had been ordered to move to the support of the beleaguered D Company.

They did so mounted in armoured personnel carriers (M113A1) from 1st APC Squadron which forded a flooded stream and then shortly afterward encountered a substantial enemy force. 2 Platoon of A Company dismounted and advanced on the enemy who fled.

Although the Viet Cong could still be seen massing in failing light at 6.55pm as the relief force arrived in the D Company area, the enemy force melted away as darkness descended. The battle of Long Tan was over.

The Australians consolidated their position for the night and then commenced evacuation of their wounded using the lights from APCs to guide in helicopters. During the night the Viet Cong cleared many of their wounded and dead from the battle field. A number of the wounded Australians lay there all through the long terrifying night, as the Viet Cong moved around them.

Morning revealed that the Viet Cong force, estimated at 2,500, had been badly mauled. 245 Viet Cong bodies were found in the battle area. It was apparent that the Viet Cong commanders had failed to appreciate the effectiveness of artillery fire and had paid dearly as a result.

The Australians had lost 18 killed, 17 from D Company (including the young platoon commander of 11 platoon) and one from 1st APC Squadron, and 24 wounded.

Those who paid the supreme sacrifice are listed on the following pages.

Pte Aldersea, Richard A.	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 20; Regular Army enlistee Born: Perth, WA Civ: Lube attendant; Married KIA - Chest wounds Commem: Karrakatta Cemetery, WA
Cpl Clements, Peter E	Unit: 1 APC Sqn; Age: 21; Regular Army enlistee Born: Cunderdin, WA Single WIA - died at hospital Commem: Moora Cemetery, WA
Pte Drabble, Glenn A	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 21; National Serviceman Born: Brisbane, Q. Civ: Blinds installer; Single KIA - Gunshot wound to head Commem: Garden of Remembrance, Q Buried at: Pinnaroo Cemetery, Q
Pte Gant, Kenneth H	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 21; National Serviceman Born: Brisbane, Q Civ: Butcher; Single KIA - Gunshot wounds Commem: Garden of Remembrance, Q Buried at: Mt Gravatt Cemetery, Q
Pte Grant, Ernest F	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 20; Regular Army enlistee Born: Thurgoona, NSW Civ: Farm hand; Single KIA - Gunshot wounds Commem: Albury Cemetery, NSW
Pte Grice, Victor R	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 21; National Serviceman Born: Ballarat V Civ: Storeman; Single KIA Commem: Garden of Remembrance, Q Buried at: Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery, Q
Pte Houston, James M	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 22; Regular Army enlistee Born: Wallsend, NSW Civ: Station hand; Married KIA - Gunshot wounds Commem: Garden of Remembrance, Q Buried at: Mt Thompson Crematorium, Q
L/Cpl Jewry, Jack	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 21; National Serviceman Born: St Mary's NSW Civ: Apprentice electrician; Married KIA - Gunshot wounds Commem: Garden of Remembrance, NSW Buried at: Pine Grove Memorial Park, NSW
Pte Large, Paul A	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 22; National Serviceman Born: Wellington, NSW Civ: Manager; Single KIA - Gunshot wounds Commem: Garden of Remembrance, NSW Buried at: Coolah Cemetery, NSW
Pte McCormack, A F	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 21; National Serviceman Born: Launceston, Tas Civ: Clerk; Single WIA - Died at hospital

Pte McCormack, Dennis J	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 21; National Serviceman Born: Adelaide , SA Civ: Labourer; Single KIA - Gunshot wounds Commem: Garden of Remembrance, Q Buried at: Pinnaroo Cemetery, Q
Pte Mitchell, Warren D	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 21; National Serviceman Born: Dalby, Q Civ: Clerk; Single KIA - Gunshot wounds Commem: Garden of Remembrance, Q Buried at: Mt Gravatt Cemetery, Q
Pte Salveron, Douglas J	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 20; National Serviceman Born: Brisbane, Q Civ: Student; Single KIA - Gunshot wounds Commem: Garden of Remembrance, Q Buried at: Mt Gravatt Cemetery, Q
2Lt Sharp, Gordon C	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 21; National Serviceman Born: Tamworth, NSW Civ: Television cameraman; Single KIA - Gunshot wounds Commem: Garden of Remembrance, NSW Buried at: Tamworth Memorial Park, NSW
Pte Thomas, David J	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 21; Regular Army enlistee Born: Bendigo, V Civ: Skilled labourer; Single KIA - Chest wounds Commem: Kangaroo Flat Cemetery, V
Pte Topp, Francis B	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 19; Regular Army enlistee Born: Toowoomba, Q Single KIA Commem: Helidon Cemetery, Q
Pte Wales, Maxwell R	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 22; Regular Army enlistee Born: Goondiwindi, Q Single KIA Commem: Moree Cemetery, NSW
Pte Whiston, Colin J	Unit: 6RAR; Age: 21; National Serviceman Born: Sydney, NSW Civ: Postman; Single KIA - Gunshot wounds Commem: Garden of Remembrance, V Buried at: Crib Point Cemetery, V



LEST WE FORGET

Who said English was Boring? Part 2

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house.

This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection.

That's how canopy beds came into existence

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside.

A piece of wood was placed in the entrance. Hence: a thresh hold. (Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over they would hang up their bacon, to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the bacon."

They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around talking and "chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes. So for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, The family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust"

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake".

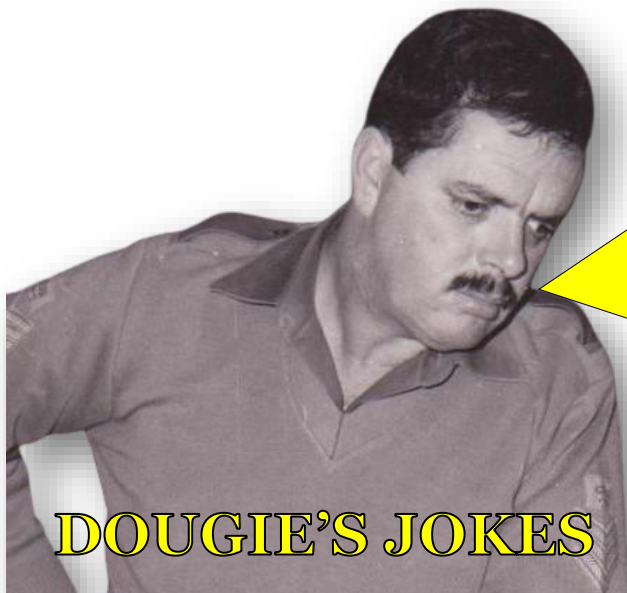
England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people, so they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave! When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell.

Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus someone could be, "Saved by the Bell" or was considered a "Dead Ringer."

And that's the truth.

Now, whoever said English history was boring???

Thanks to Dave Mercer OAM from SAMRA for these fascinating insights!



DOUGIE'S JOKES

I enjoy 1 glass of wine each night for its health benefits. The other glasses are for my witty come-backs and flawless dance moves!

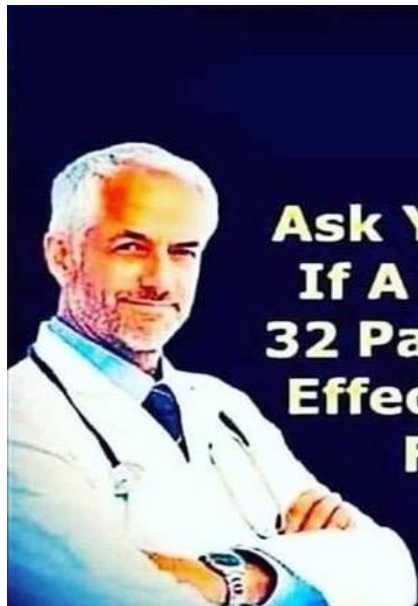
LAZY
IS SUCH AN UGLY WORD

I PREFER THE TERM
SELECTIVE PARTICIPATION

To Err Is Human
To Blame It On
Someone Else
Shows Management
Potential

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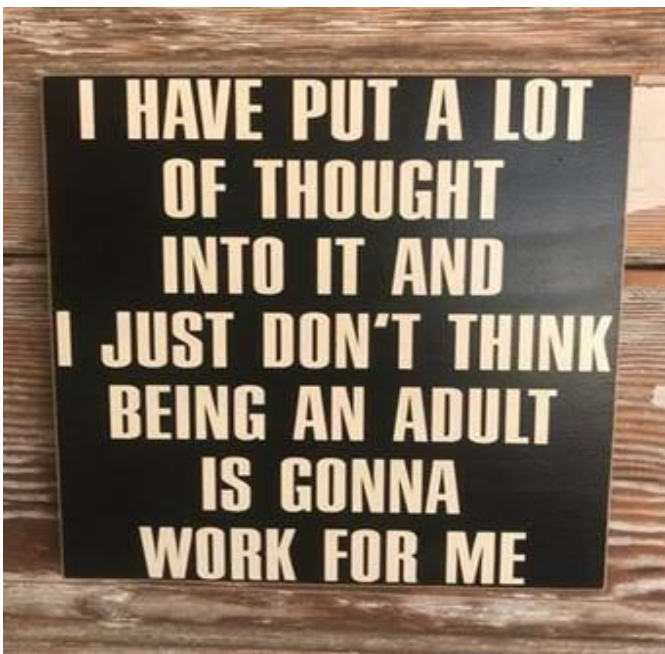
I HAVE NEITHER
THE TIME OR
THE CRAYONS
TO EXPLAIN
THIS TO YOU



Ask Your Doctor
If A Drug With
32 Pages Of Side
Effects Is Right
For You.



When I'm bored I go around putting these stickers on paper towel dispensers

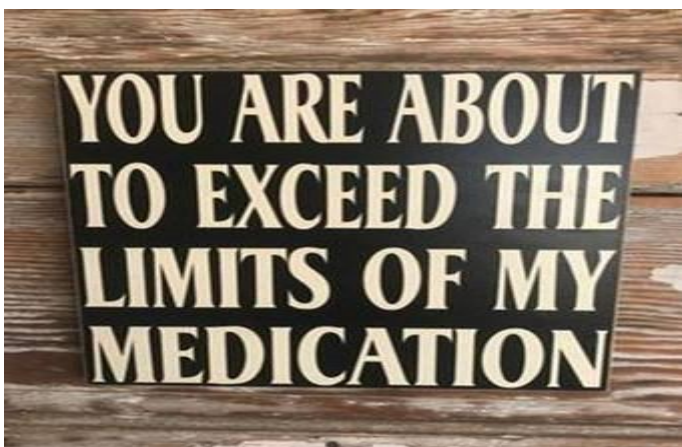




**MOST PEOPLE
DON'T THINK I'M
AS OLD AS I AM
UNTIL THEY HEAR
ME STAND UP**



**EXERCISE
MAKES YOU LOOK
BETTER NAKED.
—❖❖❖❖—
SO DOES WINE.
YOUR CHOICE.**



*Mirror, Mirror
on the wall...*
**what the hell,
HAPPENED?**

The Battle Of Amiens 1918



The **Battle of Amiens**, also known as the **Third Battle of Picardy** was the opening phase of the Allied offensive which began on 8 August 1918, later known as the Hundred Days Offensive, which ultimately led to the end of World War I. Allied forces advanced over 11 kilometres (7 mi) on the first day, one of the greatest advances of the war, with Gen Henry Rawlinson's British Fourth Army, with nine of its 19 divisions supplied by the fast-moving Australian Corps of Lt General John Monash and Canadian Corps of Lt General Arthur Currie, and Gen Marie Eugène Debeney's French First Army playing a decisive role. The battle is also notable for its effects on both sides' morale and the large number of surrendering German forces. This led Erich Ludendorff to later describe the first day of the battle as "the **black day of the German Army**". Amiens was one of the first major battles involving armoured warfare.

On 21 March 1918, the German Army had launched Operation Michael, the first in a series of attacks planned to drive the Allies back along the length of the Western Front. After the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with revolutionary-controlled Russia, the Germans were able to transfer hundreds of thousands of men to the Western Front, giving them a significant, if temporary, advantage in manpower and materiel. These offensives were intended to translate this advantage into victory. Operation Michael was intended to defeat the right wing of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), but a lack of success around Arras ensured the ultimate failure of the offensive. A final effort was aimed at the town of Amiens, a vital railway junction, but the advance had been halted at Villers-Bretonneux by British and Australian troops on 4 April.

Subsequent German offensives – Operation Georgette (9–11 April), Operation Blücher-Yorck (27 May), Operation Gneisenau (9 June) and Operation Marne-Rheims (15–17 July) – all made advances elsewhere on the Western Front, but failed to achieve a decisive breakthrough.

By the end of the Marne-Rheims offensive, the German manpower advantage had been spent, and their supplies and troops were exhausted. The Allied general, General Ferdinand Foch, ordered a counteroffensive which led to victory at the Second Battle of the Marne, following which he was promoted to Marshal of France. The Germans, recognising their untenable position, withdrew from the Marne to the north. Foch now tried to move the Allies back onto the offensive.

Plan

Foch disclosed the plan on 23 July, following the Allied victory at the Battle of Soissons. The plan called for reducing the Saint-Mihiel salient (which would later see combat in the Battle of Saint-Mihiel) and freeing the railway lines that ran through Amiens from German shellfire.

The commander of the British Expeditionary Force, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, already had plans in place for an attack near Amiens. When the British retreat had ended in April, the headquarters of the British Fourth Army under General Sir Henry Rawlinson had taken over the front astride the Somme. Its left-hand corps was the British III Corps under Lieutenant General Richard Butler. At the same time, the Australian Corps under Lieutenant General John Monash held the right flank and linked up with French armies to the south. On 30 May, all the Australian infantry divisions were united under the corps HQ for the first time on the Western Front. The Australians had mounted several local counter-attacks which both revealed the suitability of the open and firm terrain south of the Somme for a larger offensive, and established and refined the methods which were to be used.



The plan's mastermind was Monash, who used the same innovation and mastery of modern technology, particularly tanks, that he had demonstrated five weeks earlier in the Battle of Hamel. Sir Douglas Haig recorded in his diary how Monash had told him that he "had all the threads of the operation in his hands."

Men of the Royal Garrison Artillery loading a 9.2-inch howitzer near Bayencourt just before the battle

Rawlinson submitted Monash's proposals to Haig in July, and Haig forwarded them to Foch. At a meeting on 24 July, Foch agreed to the plan but insisted that the French First Army, which held the front to the south of the British Fourth Army, should participate.

Rawlinson opposed this as his and Monash's

plans depended on the large-scale use of tanks (now finally available in large numbers) to achieve surprise by avoiding a preliminary bombardment. The French First Army lacked tanks and would be forced to bombard the German positions before the infantry advance began, thus removing the element of surprise. Eventually, it was agreed that the French would participate but not launch their attack until 45 minutes after the Fourth Army. It was also agreed to advance the proposed date of the attack from 10 to 8 August to strike the Germans before they had completed their withdrawal from the Marne salient.

Rawlinson had already finalised his plans on 21 July after discussing them with his Corps commanders (Butler, Monash, Sir Arthur Currie of the Canadian Corps and Lieutenant General Charles Kavanagh of the Cavalry Corps). For the first time, the Australians would attack with the Canadian Corps.

The Australians tested the tactical methods in a local counter-attack at the Battle of Hamel on 4 July. The German defenders of Hamel were deeply dug in, and their position commanded a vast field of fire. Similar positions had resisted capture for two months in the Battle of the Somme. The Australians had used surprise rather than weight at Hamel. The artillery had opened fire only at the moment the infantry and tanks advanced, and the Germans were rapidly overrun.

A critical factor in the final plan was secrecy. There was to be no artillery bombardment a significant time before the attack, as was the usual practice, only fire immediately before the advance of Australian, Canadian, and British forces. The final plan for the Fourth Army involved 1,386 field guns and howitzers and 684 heavy guns making up 27 medium artillery brigades and thirteen heavy batteries, in addition to the infantry divisions' artillery. The fire plan for the Fourth Army's artillery was devised by Monash's senior artillery officer, Major General C. E. D. Budworth. British sound ranging advances in artillery techniques and aerial photographic reconnaissance made it possible to dispense with "ranging shots" to ensure accurate fire. Budworth had produced a timetable which allowed 504 out of 530 German guns to be hit at "zero hour", while a creeping barrage preceded the infantry. This method was similar to the *Feuerwalze* which the Germans themselves had used in their Spring Offensive, but its effectiveness was increased by the surprise achieved.

There were also to be 580 tanks. The Canadian and Australian Corps were each allocated a brigade of four battalions, with 108 Mark V fighting tanks, 36 Mark V "Star", and 24 unarmed tanks intended to carry supplies and ammunition forward. A single battalion of Mark V tanks was allocated to the III Corps. The Cavalry Corps were allocated two battalions each of 48 Medium Mark A Whippet tanks.

The Allies successfully moved the Canadian Corps of four infantry divisions to Amiens without being detected by the Germans. This was a noteworthy achievement and reflected well on the increasingly efficient staff work of the British armies. A detachment from the Corps of two infantry battalions, a wireless unit, and a casualty clearing station had been sent to the front near Ypres to bluff the Germans that the entire Corps was moving north to Flanders. The Canadian Corps was not fully in position until 7 August. To maintain secrecy, the Allied commanders pasted the notice "Keep Your Mouth Shut" into orders issued to the men and referred to the action as a "raid" rather than an "offensive".

Preliminaries

Although the Germans were still on the offensive in late July, the Allied armies strengthened as more American units arrived in France. British reinforcements were transferred from the Home Army in Britain and the Sinai and Palestine Campaign. The German commanders realised in early August that their forces might be forced onto the defensive, though Amiens was not considered to be a likely front. The Germans believed the French would probably attack the Saint-Mihiel front east of Rheims, or in Flanders near Mount Kemmel, while they believed the British would attack along either the Lys or near Albert. The Allies had indeed mounted several local counter-offensives in these sectors to gain local objectives, improve their defensive positions, and distract attention from the Amiens sector. German forces began withdrawing from the Lys and other fronts in response to these theories.



The Allies maintained equal artillery and air fire along their various fronts, moving troops only at night and feigning movements during the day to mask their actual intent.

8 August 1918, a painting by Will Longstaff, showing Imperial German Army prisoners of war being led towards Amiens, France

The German front east of Amiens was held by their Second Army (General Georg von der Marwitz) with six divisions in line (and two facing the French 1st Army). There were only two divisions in immediate reserve. There

was some concern among the Allies on 6 August when the German 27th Division attacked north of the Somme on the part of the front on which the Allies planned to attack two days later. The German division (a specially selected and trained *Stosstruppen* formation) penetrated roughly 800 yards (730 m) into the one-and-a-half-mile front.¹ This attack was made in retaliation for a trench raid by the 5th Australian Division north of the Somme on the night of 31 July, which had taken many prisoners before the Australian Corps was concentrated south of the river. The German division moved back towards its original position on the morning of 7 August, but the movement still required changes to the Allied plan.

The rumble of the approaching tanks was to be masked by bombers flying up and down the German lines. The bombers were twin-engine Handley Page O-400 bombers with engines similar to the tanks. The two RAF squadrons detailed to take part decided it was too hazardous to order planes into the air in the unseasonably dense fog and asked for volunteers. Two volunteered from 207 Squadron, Captains Gordon Flavelle and William Peace, and both were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Part 2 next month Sourced from Wikipedia

ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

2026 END OF YEAR LUNCH

WARRADALE BARRACKS

Warradale Barracks Sergeants Mess

SUNDAY 29th November 2026

1100 to 1500 hrs



All members of the RSAR Association AND all members of the Battalion are invited. Wives and partners welcome.

All food is provided FREE OF CHARGE by the Association. Wine, Beer, and Soft drinks available at generous Mess prices. Lunch @ midday.

RSVP required for catering purposes to the President David Laing on davidlaing49@bigpond.com or 0407 791 822 NLT Friday 15th November

This is our last chance to farewell the CO & RSM in their final month with the Battalion

New Arrival Pack No. 7



One of the many ways the RSAR Association support the 10th/27th Battalion is to provide New Arrivals Packs to soldiers wives/partners who have just given birth. We support not only the soldiers but their loved ones, who enable them to continue their important work.

The 7th of our New Arrivals Packs was recently presented to Sapper Kieran Peters, whose wife Rebecca gave birth to Archie on 24th February 2026. OC 3 Field Squadron Royal Australian Engineers Major David Gallasch made the presentation on behalf of the RSAR Association. Congratulations Kieran and Rebecca and welcome Archie.



VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC – August 15th 1945



Significance of the date

Victory in the Pacific Day - or 'VP Day' - is commemorated across Australia and the world. As the anniversary of the day World War II ended, it's a date that we'll never forget.

On 15 August 1945, Japan accepted the Allied Nations' terms of surrender and Australia's Prime Minister, Ben Chifley, announced that the war was over.

Australia at war

World War II is a significant event in Australia's history. Nearly 1 million Australians served in the armed forces during the war. It was also the first time since European settlement that Australia came under attack.

On VP Day, we remember Australia's war efforts from 1942 to 1945 in the Pacific region, including in Singapore, Borneo, Malaya, Papua, New Guinea and New Britain. It was a time when people worked hard and cooperated to defend the nation.

We commemorate those who served in the war. Some 40,000 Australians didn't return home to their families. Over 17,000 of them lost their lives while fighting in the war against Japan, some 8,000 of whom died in Japanese captivity.

Allied victories in Europe and the Pacific

The Allied successes of the previous year marked 1945 as a year of inevitability. It was only a matter of time before the Allies would defeat both Germany and Japan.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART27552

A depiction of a kamikaze attack on HMAS Australia during the Battle of Lingayen Gulf in 1945, painted by Frank Norton, the Royal Australian Navy's first official artist in World War II. AWM ART27552

Action in the Pacific

In the Philippines, Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ships fought in the Battle of Lingayen Gulf in January. HMAS *Australia* was again the target of suspected kamikaze attacks.

A plane crash claimed prominent Australian wartime leaders when a RAAF Lockheed Hudson A16-118 carrying Major-General Vasey and Major-General Rupert Downes plunged into the sea north of Cairns, Queensland, on 5 March, killing all on board.

War in Europe

Bombing missions continued over Germany. The near complete destruction of Dresden in February was another example of the war's horror being visited upon civilian populations.

Australian aircrew continued to suffer casualties in missions over Europe.

The Allied advances into European territory formerly occupied by Germany began to reveal the full extent of the debased nature of Hitler's Nazi regime. Death camps were discovered and liberated throughout Europe. Hitler committed suicide in his Berlin bunker at the end of April.

Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini had been captured and executed a few days before Hitler's death.

Discussions to establish a new organisation to replace the League of Nations had begun. In June, the United Nations was established.

Deaths of leaders

The stress of war arguably played a role in the deaths of the United States President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Prime Minister of Australia, John Curtin. Both men had carried the weight of their nation's wartime decision-making and would be denied the satisfaction of seeing the final victory. Roosevelt died suddenly on 12 April, aged 63. Curtin died on 5 July after a long illness, aged 60.

Operation OBOE

Australian operations in Borneo began with the 9th Division's landing at Tarakan on 1 May. Landings at Labuan Island and Brunei Bay followed in June. In July, the 7th Division landed at Balikpapan. Codenamed Operation OBOE, the landings were controversial.

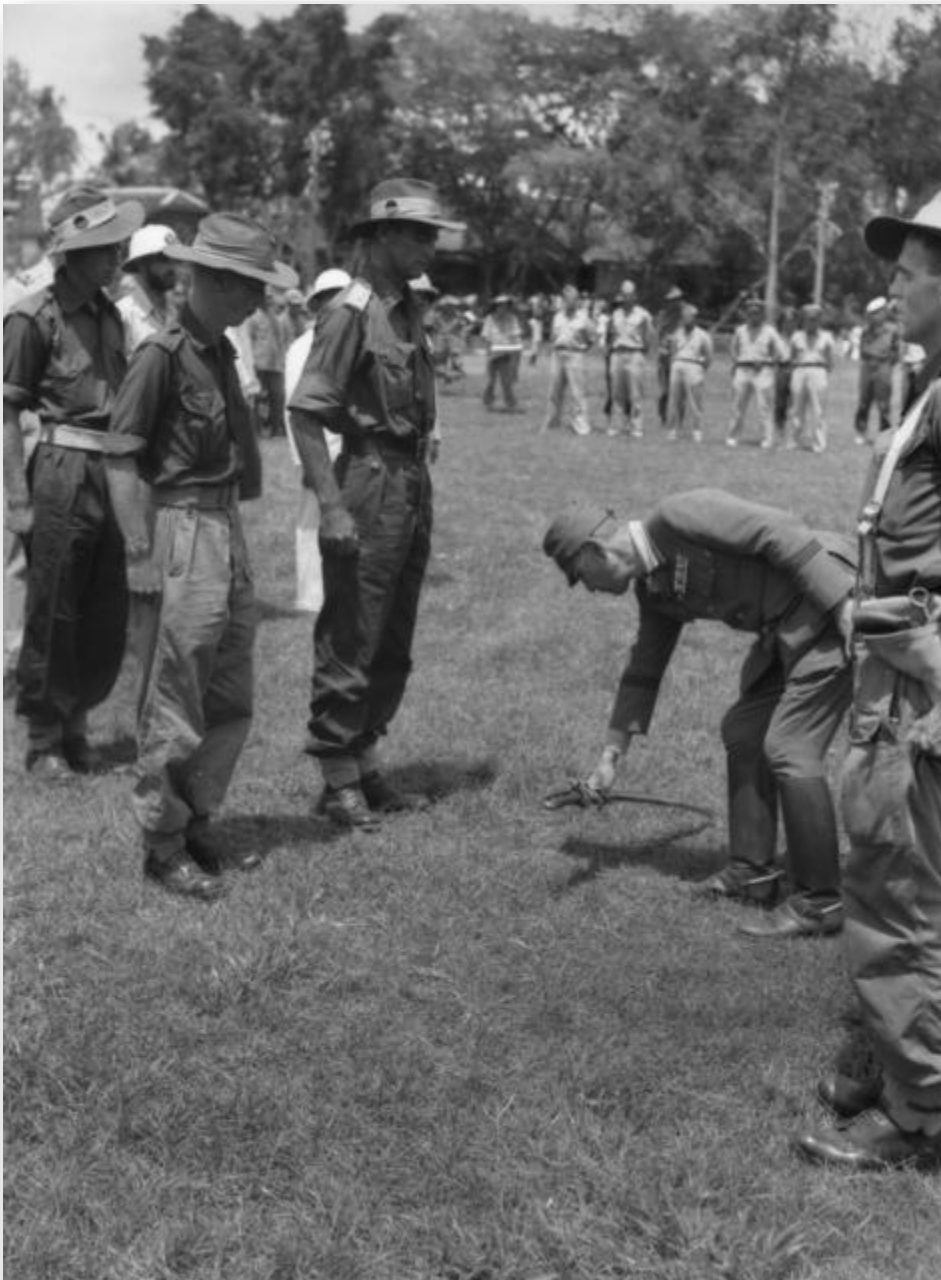
Many people argued that the OBOE landings were unnecessary given Japan's weakened state, and the fact that it seemed possible to bypass and cut off garrisons in this part of Asia and the Pacific as US forces drew even closer to the Japanese home islands. Nevertheless, they were successfully carried out by Australian troops.

Japan's surrender

Fighting continued in New Guinea and Solomon Islands. The Australian 6th Division captured Wewak in May, while the II Australian Corps' (militia) campaign on Bougainville was ongoing, as was the 5th Division's (militia) in New Britain.

By July, Japan's home islands were under constant attack from the guns of the British and American naval fleets and from carrier-borne air raids.

In August, the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Russia's declaration of war against Japan, and the smashing victory its armies won in Manchuria, were enough to finally convince Emperor Hirohito to surrender. On 15 August, Japan surrendered unconditionally to the Allies. Fighting was over.



Major General Uno,
Imperial Japanese Army,
Commanding the Japanese
Forces in the area, lays
his sword at the feet of NX349
Lieutenant Colonel Ewan
Murray Robson,
Commanding Officer, 2/31
Infantry Battalion during the
Japanese surrender
ceremony.

Merchandise available ONLY to RSARA Members



- A. Regimental Tie \$25
- B. Stubby Holders \$6 each or 6 for \$30
- C. RSARA Nameplate \$30
- D. RSARA Lapel Badge \$15
- E. Laser-engraved timber shield w/- brass look plaque \$55
- F. Vinyl RSAR Sticker 70mm x 100mm
Only \$2 each or 6 for \$10 FREE Postage.
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- H. Baseball Cap w/- Logo \$20

Allow \$15 postage for each item
Unless collected by member



POLO TOP \$45

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MEMBERS LIST

Life Members		Members	A - G	Members	H-P	Members	R-Z
Acton	Chris	Abel	Colin	Hanson	Reece	Rado	Steven
Beckett	David	Abraham	Michael	Harrington	Malcolm	Ramm	Hank
Benveniste	Sam	Albrecht	Stephen	Harrison	John	Ranger	Denis
Blackmore	Bill	Allison	Robert	Harrison	Keith	Rijken	Paul
Boscence	Bob	Andrews	Ronnie	Harrison	Nigel	Roberts	Tony
Brookes	Phil	Angove	Derek	Hartshorne	Anthony	Robertson	James
Burnard	Trent	Angus	Sebastian	Hawkins	Des	Rudd	Maxwell
Burns	Wayne	Attenborough	Geoff	Heath	Jonathon	Sailes	Adrian
Carnachan	Ian	Baker	Craig	Hewett	Ben	Sanders	Ashley
Carpenter	Ian	Bampton	Michael	Hewitt	Emily	Sandhu	Zorawar
Cotton	Bob	Barry-Orcales	Dianeever	Higgins	Kevin	Sando	Timothy
Dart	John	Beames	Paul	Hill	Max	Schuh	Simon
Davey	Trevor	Bennett	Christian	Hornhardt	Matthew	Scott	Rhys
Elliott	Graham	Blondell	Mark	Hume	Matthew	Sexton	Mark
Ewens	Mimi	Burnard	Saxon	Humphrys	Jesse	Shephard	Daniel
Gaborit	Lyndon	Burton	Ray	Jones	Brett	Shrive	Hayden
Goodwin	Graham	Buttars	Erik	Justin	Trent	Skapin	Corey
Harris	Lachlan	Cardone	Rob	Kleinig	Jack	Slater	Ian
Hawking	Don	Carlisle	Lesley-Anne	Kleinig	Mia	Smaling	Chris
Haynes	Malcolm	Cartwright	Harrison	Koop	Joshua	Sniedze	Julie
Higgins	Jonathan	Chamberlain	David	Kovacs	Philip	Sperling	Patrick
Hogan	Mark	Conray	Jason	Laing	Selina	Stuart	Phil
Hook	Alan	Cooke	Nat	Langtry	Paul	Tasker	David
Hope	David	Coombe	John	Larkins	Steve	Tattersall	Geoff
Horseman	Ian	Cowling	Thomas	Leach	Thomas	Thomas	David
Hudson	Mick	Dale	Andy	Lee	Nathan	Threlfall	Kev
Jackson	Aaron	De La Croix	Perrin	Lewis	James	Tiller	Damion
James	Grant	Demosani	Tony	Loveder	Peter	Tran	Andy
Jeffrey	Scott	Dennis	Emily	Matchett	William	Treguis	Izaak
Johnson	Paul	Dew	Trevor	McCulloch	Don	Trezise	George
Johnson	Barry	Djakovic	Livio	McIver	Bill	Tsoulakis	Christos
Klopf	Alex	Domanski	Glenn	McKenzie	Kain	Tucker	Belinda
Laing	David	Donald	Thomas	McMahon	Tyler	Tucker	Paul
Lakin	Bruce	Drew	Anton	Migali	Michael	Turner	Garry
Marlin	Robin	Duncan	Coen	Mitchell	Barry	Vozelj	Blaz
Meredith	Mike	Dunn	Bob	Mitchell	Jonathon	Waldon	David
Miller	Nick	Dunn	Peter	Morony	Frank	Weepers	Nicole
Moore	Peter	Duras	Roman	Mulroney	Dennis	Wheeler	Chris
Moore	Terry	Etteridge	Hugh	New	Anthony	Whitaker	Glenn
Moore	Thomas	Eva	Keith	Normandale	Zachary	Wilkinson	Charles
Paul	John	Ewens	Mimi	Oakley	Andrew	Williams	Reg
Pollard	Barry	Faunt	Joshua	O'Daly	Ryan	Williams	Janelle
Richter	Sean	Flynn	Adrian	Orrock	Alan	Williams	David
Salamon	Piotr	Fortune	Nigel	Osborne	Isaac	Winiata	Joshua
Stewart	Robin	Foy	Erin	Papps	Bernard	Zuromski	Paul
Stewien	Peter	Gatley	Graham	Parslow	Howard	Associate	Members
Vella	Joe	Genovese	John	Parsonage	James	Abel	Karen
Waters	Ian	Ghanem	Paul	Pascoe	Michael	Angove	Leisel
Watters	Matthew	Gibson	Lindsay	Payne	Bob	Bampton	Leslie
Westover	Rhys	Gill	Graham	Peachey	Michael	Carnachan	Dom
Wilson	Graham	Gordon	Frank	Pearce	Philip	Dunn	Trish
Associate Life	Members	Griffiths	Amanda	Pexton	Timothy	Eva	Gail
Elliott	Julie	Groffen	Renee	Phillips	Colin Rex	Hawkins	Lynn
Field	Shirley	Guglielmi	Jermaine	Portakiewicz	Anthony	Hook	Philippa
Johnson	Sally	Honorary	Members	Portakiewicz	David	Johnson	Margaret
Laing	June	MAJGEN Wilson	Neil	Portakiewicz	Richard	Parsonage	Yvonne
Parkin	Audrey	LTCOL Tyson	Darrin	Powell	Gary	Pollard	Kay
Phillips	Heather	CAPT Jilbert	Charles	Preece	Brian	Toy	Jill
Sanderson	Lorraine	WO1 Broadbent	Mark			Winger	Kathleen