



"Sitrep, Over!"

Official Monthly Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc **February 2022**

Patron - Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing 0407 791 822

NATIONAL SERVICEMANS DAY



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National Serviceman's Day is celebrated on 14th February each year, although very little is known by the general public, apart from those who actually served.

Between 1951 and 1972, a total of 287,000 young Australian men were called up in two separate schemes for compulsory training in the Navy, Army and Air Force. Of them, 212 died on active service in Borneo and Vietnam. National Service was part of Australia's defence preparedness for three decades.

The Background

National Service was a product of the post-World War Two global and regional conflicts facing Australia. These began with the Berlin blockade by the Soviet Union in 1948, the first Arab-Israeli war the same year, Communist insurgencies in Malaya and Vietnam, Communist North Korea's invasion of South Korea in 1950, the Suez Canal crisis of 1956, Confrontation with Indonesia in Borneo in 1963 and the Vietnam War. The threat of nuclear war hung over the entire world.

The outbreak of the Korean war in 1950, coupled with the Malayan Emergency and the Viet Minh uprising against the French in Vietnam, appeared to threaten Australia directly. Recruiting for the regular Armed Services proving insufficient, the Menzies Government re-introduced conscription which had ended in 1945. The legislation had bi-partisan political support.

National Service was in the Australian tradition since Federation in 1901 of volunteer forces for overseas service backed up by a pool of basically trained men in the Naval Reserve, the Citizens Military Forces

NATIONAL SERVICEMANS DAY

and the Citizens Air Force. In the first scheme from 1951 to 1959, National Servicemen could nominate a Service preference but in practice most were allocated to units near their homes.

The Navy and Air Force gave preference to family of former personnel or members of Cadet units. Overseas service was automatic in the Navy and Air Force.

A major change for the Army was that National Servicemen were given the option, at call-up, to volunteer for service anywhere overseas if war occurred. Most Nashos volunteered. Further Corps training would have been needed. World War Two militia had been restricted to Australia and territories in the south-west Pacific. The Korean armistice was signed in 1953 and no new di-



rect threats developed during that decade, so the basic role of National Servicemen was as reservists.

The second scheme from 1965 to 1972 for the Borneo and Vietnam wars involved two years full-time service integrated into expanded regular Army units, with overseas deployment where required.

There are those who say we never needed a National Service Scheme as we already had 10 fully trained Infantry Battalions serving in our CMF system, which were prevented from actually fighting overseas by a clause enacted by Parliament that stated the CMF battalions duties were only to protect and guard Australia. Large numbers of CMF soldiers joined the Regular Army and served overseas anyway, which made a laughing stock of what the government had decreed.

The RSAR Association has a number of members who served overseas during that conflict, and we'd love to hear from you if you can take the time to email a short story through. Come on Phil, Bill and Ray?

David Laing

VALE Major Jeff Ayles (Retd)

Jeffrey Ayles joined the new Australian Special Air Service unit (SAS) in the early 1960s. With 2 Squadron SAS, the young South Australian found himself immediately in a “shadow” war between Indonesia and the British Commonwealth forces on the Borneo-Sarawak border.

By February 1966, small SAS reconnaissance patrols were deep inside Indonesian territory as part of a secret campaign code-named Operation Claret.

It was while observing and engaging Indonesian and paramilitary forces, that SAS patrol members became separated from each other and an officer and a trooper were lost in a flooded river.

Corporal Ayles and survivors of the patrol later spent a fruitless five days searching for their comrades, and because of the secretive nature of Operation Claret, were largely unsupported by friendly forces. The two men's bodies were recovered many years later and 2 Squadron went on to support Australia's 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment.



A year later the SAS went on to serve in the Vietnam War, Jeff amongst them.

WO2 Jeff Ayles served with the Headquarters Australian Force Vietnam. On returning to SA Jeff joined 10 RSAR as a CMF soldier and was reclassified to SGT where he used his extensive knowledge to train new recruits in the art of jungle warfare.

It didn't take long for Jeff to work his way back up through the ranks and in his own words he “went over to the dark side” and became an officer.

Jeff retired with the rank of Major, and in later years became heavily involved with the SA Army Museum (AMOSA) at Keswick Barracks as Curator. He stepped down from that role after the death of his beloved wife Denise in 2019, but continued to be actively involved up until his passing on Friday 7th January 2022.

Jeff was a Life Member of the RSAR Association, having known nearly all of the senior members at one time or another. He will be sadly missed in many circles.

[My thanks to Des Hawkins, RSARA Historical Officer and the AMOSA team at the Army Museum for their help in compiling this tribute to Jeff. *Editor*](#)

The Service to Celebrate Jeff's life was held on Monday 17th January at the Florey Chapel, Centennial Park at 1000 hrs. Due to COVID restrictions only a small number of mourners were permitted to attend. The RSAR Association was represented by the President and 3 members. The service was livestreamed on the internet and was watched by many more friends and colleagues.

A memorial service, hosted by AMOSA, is being planned for the near future, where many more of Jeff's friends and colleagues can attend. Watch this space.



Corporal Numbnutz Funnies.

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting.

Well for example, the other day June and I went into town and went into a shop on Grenfell Street. We were only in there for about 5 minutes. When we came out, there was a traffic cop writing out a parking ticket.

We went up to him and said, "Come on mate, how about giving a senior citizen a break?" He ignored us and continued writing the ticket.

I called him a Nazi mongrel. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having bald tyres.

So June called him a dickhead. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windscreen with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket.

This went on for about 20 minutes. The more we abused him, the more tickets he wrote.

Personally, we didn't care, because we came into town by bus.

We try to have a little fun each day now that we're retired. It's important at our age.

A Department of Water Resources representative stops at a Longreach farm and talks with an old farmer.

He tells the farmer, I need to inspect your farm for your water allocation.

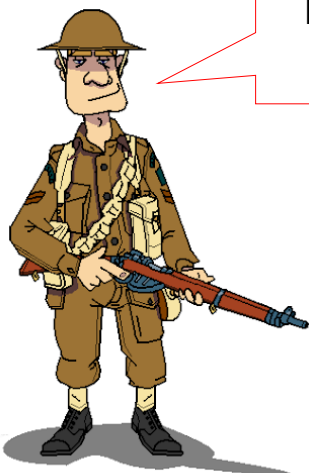
The old farmer says, 'Okay, but don't go in that field over there.

The Water representative says, 'Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me. See this card? This card means I am allowed to go **WHEREVER I WISH** on any agricultural land. No questions asked or answered. Have I made myself clear? Do you understand?'

The old farmer nods politely and goes about his work.

Later, the old farmer hears loud screams and spies the Water Rep running for his life and close behind is the farmer's bull. The bull is gaining with every step. The Rep is clearly terrified, so the old farmer immediately throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs.....

'Your card mate! Show him Your card!!'



If you haven't grown up by age 50, you don't have to!

A man who had too much to drink decides to walk home on New Year's Eve.

A policeman stopped the man and asked where he was going.

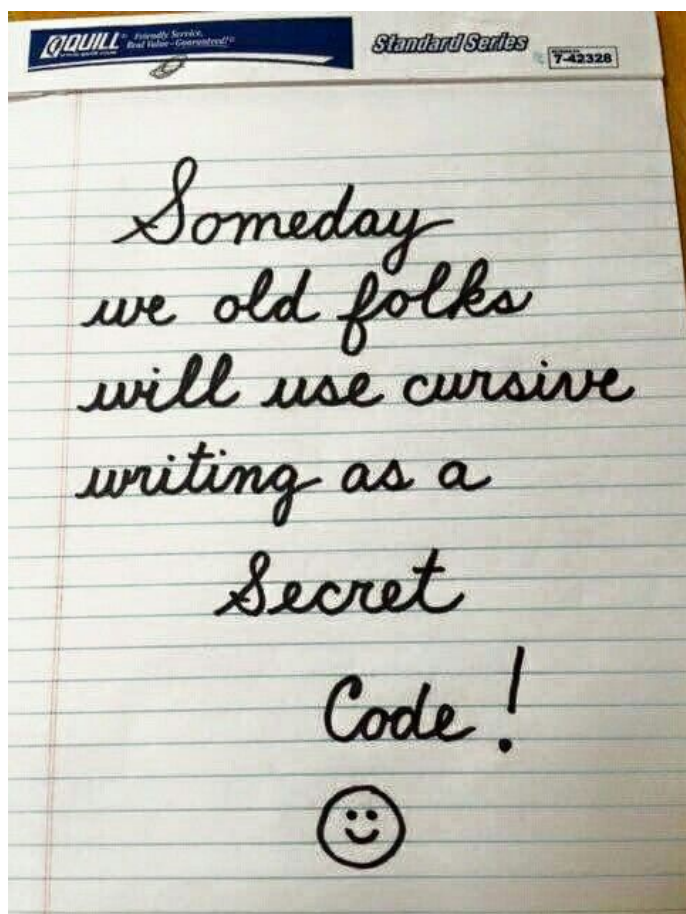
"I'm on my way to a lecture," the man replied.

The cop scoffed, "Who gives lectures on New Year's Eve?"

The man answered: "My wife."

NUDE SELFIE IN THE DARK JUST FOR YOU..

YOU'RE WELCOME



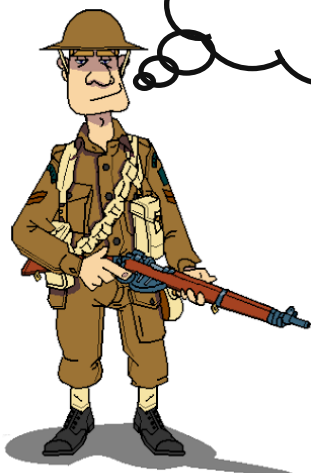
I hate it when I see an old person, and then I realize we went to school together!

My grandma talking to my mom about her new hearing aid, "it's the most expensive one you can buy, it cost me \$4,000"

My mom: "What kind is it"

My grandma: "it's 4:15pm"

Does anyone know how long toilet paper will last if you freeze it?



Hmmm. How many days to Christmas?

Be careful where you shop online. We ordered a german shepherd and now this guy lives with us.



I told my wife I saw a deer on the way to work.
She said how do you know he was headed to work?

**OLD AGE COMES AT A BAD TIME!
WHEN YOU FINALLY KNOW EVERYTHING,
YOU START TO FORGET EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.**

#analbumcover

If you read this the same way I did,
then the internet has ruined you too.

EDITORIAL

Once again we come to that time of year when the holidays are well and truly over, the credit cards are maxed out, the kids are back at school, and those below the age of 70 are back at work. That probably applies to about 1/3 of our membership, being the hard working Army Reservists they are, with some juggling 2 jobs, a young family and a mortgage to boot. Well, young folks, I have some great news for you. It's all worth it, because in just a few years, 20, 30 or slightly more, you'll be able to retire and:

1. Write to Centrelink and apply for some sort of pension to supplement your superannuation
2. Apply through Defence for your Federation Star for 40 years service to the ADF
3. Write to your bank and tell them your mortgage is finished so stop pestering you because you're selling the house
4. Cash in some of your super and buy the caravan/motorhome of your dreams
5. Email the Secretary of the RSAR Association and thank him for his loyal service over the past 50 years and tell him there's a cheque in the mail for him. A couple of grand will be nice!

Four out of five ain't bad though, but I'll keep checking the letter-box anyway.

There have been a few occasions in my life where I've sought the help of a Green God Botherer to help me through some tough times. Don't get me wrong, I'm not a Bible-toting candle-lighter who sings hymns out of tune, I just believe that everyone is put on this Earth for a particular reason, and Army Padres have a use too! As stated, I've met a few in my time, and I can still call them all my friends today, as we can talk to each other and even lean on each other should the need arise. Padre Paul Ghanem, our 10/27 Bn Regimental Chaplain joined us midway through last year and has been very proactive, not only with the Battalion Battle Group but also within our Association, and he has consented to writing a piece for this Journal every now and then, which is very much appreciated. You can find his ponderings on Page 7 this month, where he reaches out in case you need his support or words of comfort.

That's what I think, anyway!

David Laing - Editor



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www.rsara.asn.au

PAYMENTS FOR SUBS & MERCHANDISE

**Fees and Merchandise can be paid
by EFT through the following
Bendigo Bank account:**

**RSAR Association Inc
BSB 633 000
Acc. 1616 585 88**

Cheques etc can be mailed to

**The Treasurer
Christian Bennett
RSAR Association
5 Ashwin Parade
Torrensville SA 5031**

christianbennett95@gmail.com

PADRES PONDERINGS

by Chaplain Paul Ghanem

8

A challenging email came across my desk. Would I consider making a submission to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, as established on 08 July 2021? As many of you are no doubt aware it is an inquiry into systemic issues and common themes related to defence and veteran death by suicide, including the possible contribution of pre-service, service, transition, separation and post-service issues, and other matters believed to be relevant.

Being more of a “half full cup” kind of guy I have found the request both daunting and challenging. I know my strengths; I can support, I can be loyal, I can follow orders, I can be committed to providing pastoral care to a member in crises. But what about my weaknesses? What happens when the system fails? What happens when one of our own falls through the safety net? What happens when chaplaincy fails? What happens when I fail? To put it in a language that even a simple padre could understand, how do I address the empty portion of the cup out of which I drink?



In the old Catholic Mass the Latin phrase *mea culpa* is used as an acknowledgment of one's fault or error prior to receiving absolution. To my way of thinking this is the first and hardest step of all; to acknowledge all failures, individual and communal. There is little doubt that the ADF has invested heavily into resilience type training programs, all of which I am certain will have a positive mental health impact on current and future serving members. I can list this initiative and many other good changes, but can I also list the bad?

Amongst this readership there are what I would call Reluctant SME's (Reluctant Subject Matter Experts) who have been formed by an experience of defence related suicide. Perhaps I can pass the task of writing a submission to you or you may prefer to share with me your thoughts?

My first Padres' Pondering for 2022 is the chaplain reaching out to you with a request to help him approach pastoral care with a cup that is full to overflowing.

Can you help?

The Padre

0408 163 257

www.defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au

If you or someone else needs help, please call:

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling on [1800 011 046](tel:1800011046)

ADF Mental Health All-hours Support Line on [1800 628 036](tel:1800628036)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jeff Ayles



Dave thanks for the advice, this is very sad news indeed.

I first met Jeff nearly 40 years on my recruit course at Hampstead! I think he was a Staff Sergeant at the time and was overseeing the training. He left an impression then as he did for the rest of the time that I knew him. I also had the pleasure of serving with him as a fellow officer later in his career. Needless to say I learnt a lot.

One of my great memories is his passion for history and dedication in presenting it. This first started with a small but very well considered museum at the Torrens Training Depot. He took great pride and delight in showing the soldiers of the Battalion through, the stories he could tell with such accuracy and clarity had them all in the palm of his hand. It's a rare skill and this enthusiasm spilled onto the Museum at Keswick where I know he will be sorely missed.

He gave a great deal and he was just a good person. My thoughts are also with his family at this difficult time.

Regards

Graham Goodwin CSC

Brigadier
Commander 9BDE & JTG629.4 OP C19A



Hello David,

Sad news indeed, I well remember Jeff from my time in The Bushmans Rifles. Met up with Jeff some years ago, on Anzac Day, for a yarn. Jeff certainly was a stern man to look up to, his vast experience was immense. It was a privilege to have known him, and his ready advice.

RIP Major Ayles

Bill Matchett

Good morning David.

I first met Jeff when posted to 41 Supply Battalion Depot at Keswick Barracks, he was the unit carpenter and a bloody good carpenter at that.

Later, in the early eighties, I met Jeff again when posted to 10 Battalion and remember his efforts when on annual camps. On one occasion, I think it was in the Riverland, he took to task a group of American soldiers who were going to teach the Aussies to fast rope down from a helicopter. The following morning the helicopter arrived and the show commenced but the first and fastest soldier down was Jeff Ayles (Nuff said).

Another memorable occasion was at Murray Bridge when Jeff was training snipers. As I remember it we were queued up on the road awaiting breakfast when Jeff asked the waiting mob if they could pick out his snipers from the adjacent paddock? Suffice to say not one sniper was identified.

Jeff Ayles was a soldiers soldier and I do not think that we shall ever see his like again.

Stay safe old soldier,

Jim Parsonage

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jeff Ayles



Dave.

I worked with Jeff on several occasions during my military career. His professionalism, knowledge and high standards made it a pleasure to work with him.

Ray Burton.

Terrible news. What a gentleman of a man. The world is a lesser place as a result of his passing. Please pass my condolences onto his friends and family. RIP Jeff.

Trent Burnard - Colonel

Dear Dave

A true officer and gentleman. It has been a privilege to serve and work with Jeff over so many years. His extensive military knowledge and dedication to the Regiment and the RSAR Historical Collection has been exceptional. From the members of the Historical Collection team Vale Jeff.

Des Hawkins

Hi David.

Can you pass on my commiserations re the passing of Jeff. I only saw him back in September at our South East Bivouac. He was a gentleman and a soldier's soldier and a great mentor to many. He will be missed. Unfortunately these events are happening far too often as we travel the passage of time and age.

Thanks David and I trust all else is well.

Cheers

Barry Ward - Mt Gambier

David

My sincere condolences to Jeff's family.

I never met Jeff face to face due to my location in Queensland, but he helped me online several times to organise a few things, and always a gentleman.

RIP Jeff Ayles.

Erik J Buttars - Queensland

From the Editor

The Eulogies composed by Martin Hamilton-Smith and Denis (Tex) Ranger are included on the following two pages. I thank Martin and Tex for their contributions to not only the commemoration service but also to Jeff's family in their time of sorrow.

David Laing

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jeff Ayles



Eulogy Jeff Edward Ayles

Lt Col Martin Hamilton-Smith SAS Assoc

17 Jan 22

When the ANZAC's landed at the beaches of Gallipoli, bayonets fixed and charged off that fatal cove into the impossible hills above, they were fighting for an Australia recently born, but far more, they were fighting for their families at home and for each other.

When their sons 'dug in' at Tobruk a generation later, left behind, bypassed, and surrounded, with their backs to the sea looking into the eyes of a determined Afrika Corps and awaiting a terrible onslaught, they were fighting for the same ideals, and for each other.

And when Jeff Ayles stepped out on patrol in Borneo in January 1966, fifty-six years ago to the month, he and the other men in his small patrol were behind the enemy lines, in some of the most mountainous and dense rainforests in the world. They faced a determined and deadly enemy.

Jeff and his comrades became the original phantoms of the jungle. Many would follow in their footsteps. Just like their grandfathers in the wars which had proceeded them, Jeff and his comrades were fighting for their families, for the Australia they loved, the principles and values they upheld and for their mates.

Jeffs Service

Jeff joined the army from SA as a national serviceman in May 1959 and made the army his life, navigating his way through 16 National Service Training Battalion and 1 RTB and the Infantry Centre to 1st Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment in 1961, where he served as a rifleman and assault pioneer. A year later he was selected for 1 Special Air Service Company then part of the RAR and he stayed with the unit as it evolved into the Special Air Service Regiment in 1964.

When the aggressive Sukarno communist regime in Indonesia threatened to invade its neighbor Malaysia, Australia answered the call. Jeff deployed with 2 SAS Sqn into the jungles of Borneo- Kalimantan. The terrain was steep and rugged, patrols were inserted by helicopters or by abseiling through the jungle canopy. Patrols lasted weeks.

Everything had to be carried on the soldiers back. Efforts were made to win the hearts and minds of natives in remote villages while avoiding the well-armed enemy. The mosquitoes, leeches, sand flies and the dangers of the jungle were everywhere. Operations were conducted on both sides of the border; Lives were lost in action but there were other dangers. Two of Jeffs SAS comrades drowned on patrol crossing wild rivers, another was fatally gored by an elephant. Death was never far away, always at hand.

Jeff returned to the SASR's base in Swanbourne WA safely after his operational tour of duty to the relief of his loving wife and family. He was posted back to SA as ARA instructional staff to 10th Battalion RSAR in 1967 until being called to Vietnam in 1970-71 to the staff of HQ Australian Forces Vietnam. Jeff returned to SA and left the ARA in 1972 to continue his service with the Citizens Military Forces. Later in 1984, he was attached to 5/7 RAR.

Jeff served as a rifleman, assault pioneer, Regimental Duty NCO, Company Sergeant Major, Instructor, and later as a Company second in command and Company Commander.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jeff Ayles



Jeff always put others before himself. He felt that no one should ever be left behind. On the morning of September 20, 1969, just before Jeff deployed to Vietnam, five soldiers from his regiment were on the run in thick almost impenetrable jungle in an area in Long Khan province known as the 'Nui May Tao', pursued by a large enemy force. The entire patrol was about to be lost when a helicopter 'slick' called in for a hot extraction supported by gunships, was able to drop a jungle penetrator in a desperate attempt to extract the five men under fire. As the patrol attached to a single rope, and was torn upwards through the jungle canopy returning and under direct enemy fire, 23-year-old Tpr Dave Fisher fell from the device from at least 60m to the jungle floor, dying from gunfire wounds or the impact.

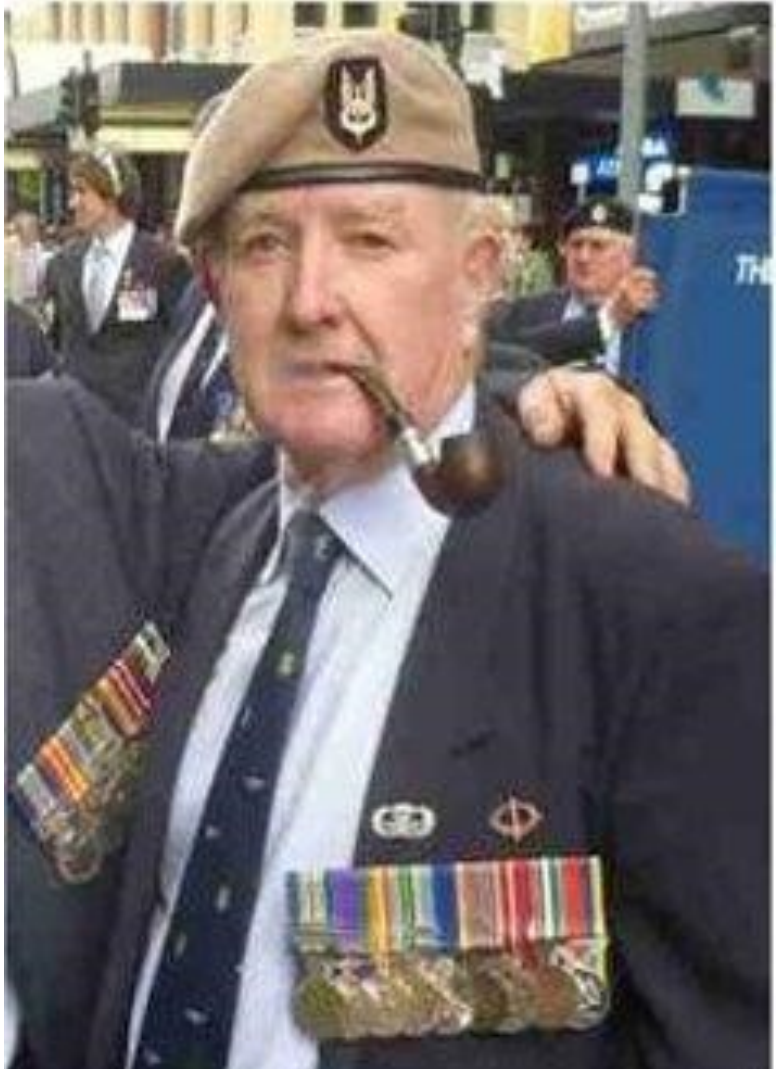
Jeff took a keen and supportive interest in what had happened to his comrade and did all he could to help support the effort to find and bring Fishers body home. It was a subject he would often raise. Forty years later in 2008 a team found Fisher and in October that year his remains were repatriated to Australia.

The SAS Association SA Branch remembers Jeff as a great soldier, a beloved comrade, and a good mate. Always there to help, to assist and to give others a hand Jeff was a humble soul who put others first. Jeff seemed at his best talking to young lads from schools who attended our memorial services to the fallen, passing on the wisdom of the years.

Jeff's children Susan and Karen, grandchildren and extended family can proudly remember a father and grandfather who served them and his nation with courage and honor, in the finest tradition of ANZAC; a champion of the values all Australians hold dear. Jeff, you gave far more than you ever sought. We your comrades on behalf of a grateful nation, salute you and thank you for your service.

Rest in peace friend, your duty done.

Martin Hamilton-Smith





Eulogy for Jeff Ayles by Denis Ranger

August 1940 – Jan 2022

Good morning, Karen, Sue and Martin, Lachlan, William and Tom. To his relatives and friends and to the many Members of the Ex and Service Community who honour our late mate through their presence. (As many as we could fit). Good morning.

My name is Denis Ranger and I had the privilege of knowing, serving and sharing that special mateship, we have known for 50 years.

This is not a history lesson but more about a remarkable man, soldier, mate, husband, father, Papa and Servant of the Ex and Service Community for 60 years.

Jeff resigned his Warrant and enlisted in the CMF (Later ARES) after his ARA service, as a Sergeant, being posted to the Assault Pioneer Platoon, Spt Coy, 27Bn RSAR, at Murray Bridge, where we first met.

Moving past a farm property in Unagalarby, 3 huge blue heelers came flying out of the gate, at yours truly. He was ever so respectful, saying quietly “Don’t be frightened Sir “(I was green as grass), repeating it several time to calm me I thought, then said a little more urgently, “be frightened now!!!”.

The CMF was like a balloon, expended, inflated, reduced and deflated as all Governments chose and had Depots from Mt Gambier to Broken Hill. A posting was the CO’s prerogative. Then, in 72, parent Bn’s were 10Bn TPG, 27Bn, Smithfield.

In 1974 27Bn was disbanded and Jeff was eagerly grabbed by the remaining 10Bn at TPG. He regained his Warrant in the late seventies and had varied instructional postings.

Early in his time at Torrens, whilst quaffing a quiet one in the Sergeants Mess, some one questioned the German MP40 hanging on the wall “Does it work” Days later at Dean Range (off the Nth Express way, now gone) and some 9mm ammo, “Yep”, it works. It was decided to then render it innocuous

1981, Jeff, with a mate, was tasked conducting Survival Training on a Station Nth of Quorn, it was to be a bull-ring, over 3 days at a time for 3 Rifle Companies. The training was visited by the Senior Officer, who viewed the Emu meat being smoked by cowoop on wires in a stone chimney and asked, “where did you get the emu?”. Jeff’s response was, “oh, we clubbed it Sir”. Says the Senior Bod, “Jeez you must be quick”. Again, Jeff’s response was unfazed “yeah, 2700 ft per second”.

A day or so later one group of moaning soldiers, upon being visited by Jeff and his mate complained that they were starving and there no bloody food to be found here!!!. Jeff walked behind the hapless lot and asked how hard they had worked to find some tucker, they bemoaned the lot and he calmly produced his ever-present knife and dug up a hatful of Wild Pear, - Yams. Stop whining, open your eyes and do your job!! They went red and scurried off.

Jeff was a stickler for “doing the Righty and the correct thing”, he stood his ground, respectfully but forcefully irrespective of rank or perceived self-importance.

In 1982, the CMF became the ARES, 27Bn RSAR was reformed under the command of LTCOL Doug Byers MC and Jeff was quickly grabbed for the reformed Unit. By this time Jeff had been promoted to Captain, as had his Late close mate Ron “Jack” Boyce, former RSM 3Bn RAR and who was Depot Commander of the Berri Depot, home to the SFMG Pl, Spt Coy 27Bn. I digress, Jeff and Jack spent many weeks over the years together driving to FNQ for fishing/worm drowning. A favourite pastime was the debate over music on the trip, Jeff (weirdly) was into classical stuff, Jack had more class and was into Country; each delighted in copying a tape/CD and incorrectly labelling it. Rum, Brandy, beer, fishing and silent sitting by a river was their thing. Bullshit was also known.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jeff Ayles



Jeff continued working in OPS at 27Bn and snagged a 6-week trip to the UK and Europe to look at the British Army, he had earnt this.

1987 came around and the Army cuts arrived, 10Bn and 27Bn were to be linked under the Command of LTCOL (later MAJGEN) Neil Wilson. Jeff was to be Intelligence Officer “proper IO, not writing dinner invites and place names”.

Jeff excelled in his work, it was his calling and became part of the Watertight BHQ team of Wilson, Ranger 2IC, Strain OPSO, Ayles IO and Bruno BEM RSM, who can lay claim to ensuring that post K89, there was an ARES, rather than none.

He was all over the “Bad Hats” on K89, out thunked and outsmarted them, rode in a rover with two “prisoners, AUS and US Commandos”; may have had some different clothes on and no rank insignia, but got the goods. Jeff also initiated the Diggers Dinner, waited on by Officers and Snr NCO’s.

1992, Jeff got his Majority and soldiered on until his retirement in the late 90’s. 30+ Years a Soldier.

But that is not all, in 1999, Jim Parkins (Former Trg Maj 10Bn RSAR and RAR) organised a team of 6 for Rotary, to go to Aitape, PNG to build a house, (Paying their own way) for a community that was decimated by a Tsunami, he was the first bloke to put his hand up, so Ayles and Ranger, two old Carpenters, and Parkins and Ruwoldt (Mt Gambier) (dogs bodies), went off. Complete success, along with visits to WW2 Battlefields and Cemeteries..



Then there was the Army Museum, from one room at TTD, to Curator of the Magnificent Army Museum at Keswick, Jeff was always at pains to request donations of items went to the RSAR Historical Collection and thank goodness for his foresight. 30 more years of hard work. Quietly.

His work at the Naval and Military Club for history nights, 30 Years, his mastery of Two Up on Anzac Day, for the RSL SA, was legendary and spanned 30 years.

And the Regimental Council is wiser for his many years of membership.

Husband, Dad and Cobber.

Our visit to Mt Gambier, Jeff, Gen Wilson and yours truly in Sep 21 to visit the Old and Bold from A Coy was a ripper for all.

From Sgt to Major, Jeff’s manner, dress, bearing and knowledge would instantly grab your attention. He could mentor, teach, advise and instruct or boot your bum in such a manner, regardless of rank or perceived status, that it stayed with you.

If Jeff Ayles viewed you as a mate, you were a very fortunate person. Farewell my Old Mate

We thank Musician Michael Bampton, the Bandmaster WO2 David Portakiewicz and the CO 10/27 for their Support.

Denis Ranger

MAJ. OAM. RFD. (Retd)

Military Anniversaries in February 1915 - 1944

- Feb 15 1915 – WWI: Singapore. Indian soldiers launch the first large-scale mutiny of WWI. Some 800 soldiers in the Indian army's 5th Light Infantry Brigade broke out of their barracks on and killed several British officers before moving on to other areas of the city. By the time the revolt was quashed, several days later, by British, French and Russian troops, the mutineers had killed 39 Europeans—both soldiers and civilians. British soldiers executed 37 of the mutiny's ringleaders by gunfire.
- Feb 15 1942 – WW2: Fall of Singapore. In one of the greatest defeats in British military history, Britain's supposedly impregnable Singapore fortress surrenders to Japanese forces after a weeklong siege. More than 60,000 British, Australian, and Indian soldiers were taken prisoner, joining 70,000 other Allied soldiers captured during Britain's disastrous defence of the Malay Peninsula.
- Feb 15 1943 – WW2: The Germans break the American Army's lines at the Fanid–Sened Sector in Tunisia, North Africa. Four days of successive defeats cost II the American II Corps 12,546 missing, 103 tanks, 280 vehicles, 18 field guns, 3 antitank guns, and one antiaircraft battery.
- Feb 15 1944 – WW2: The Narva 13 day Offensive begins with Soviet Leningrad Front and German army detachment "Narwa" for the strategically important Narva Isthmus
- Feb 15 1944 – WW2: The assault on Monte Cassino, Italy, begins. Monte Cassino Italy
- Feb 15 1945 – WW2: Third day of bombing in Dresden.
- Feb 15 1950 – Cold War: The Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, the two largest communist nations in the world, announce the signing of a mutual defense and assistance treaty.
- Feb 15 1954 – Canada and the United States agree to construct the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line, a system of radar stations in the far northern Arctic regions of Canada and Alaska.
- Feb 15 1966 – Vietnam: In response to a letter from Ho Chi Minh asking that French President Charles De Gaulle use his influence to "prevent perfidious new maneuvers" by the United States in Southeast Asia, De Gaulle states that France is willing to do all that it could to end the war.
- Feb 15 1967 – Vietnam: Thirteen U.S. helicopters are shot down in one day in Vietnam.
- Feb 15 1989 – Afghanistan: The Soviet Union officially announces that all of its troops have left Afghanistan.
- Feb 15 2003 – Iraq War: Protests against the Iraq war take place in over 600 cities worldwide. It is estimated that between 8 million to 30 million people participate, making this the largest peace demonstration in history.
- Feb 16 1778 – American Revolution: Two future presidents of the United States, John Adams and his son, 10-year-old John Quincy Adams, sit in Marblehead Harbor, off the coast of Massachusetts, on board the frigate, Boston, which is to take them to France, where John Adams will replace Silas Deane in Congress' commission to negotiate a treaty of alliance.
- Feb 16 1804 – United States Navy Lieutenant Stephen Decatur led a successful raid to destroy the captured USS Philadelphia in Tripoli, denying her use to the Barbary States in the First Barbary War.

- Feb 16 1862 – Civil War: The Battle of Fort Donelson ends with the Confederate surrender of Ft. Donelson TN. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the nickname 'Unconditional Surrender Grant'. Casualties and losses: US 2691 - CSA 13,846
- Feb 16 1864 – Civil War: The H.L. Hunley becomes the first submarine to engage and sink a warship, the USS Housatonic.
- Feb 16 1865 – Civil War: Columbia, South Carolina is burned as Confederate forces flee from advancing Union forces.
- Feb 16 1865 – WW2: Norwegian commandos trained by the British Special Operations Executive destroy a factory to prevent the German nuclear energy project from acquiring heavy water.
- Feb 16 1916 – WW1: After five days of intense fighting, the Russian army defeats the Third Turkish Army to capture Erzerum, a largely Armenian city in the Ottoman province of Anatolia.
- Feb 16 1944 – WW2: Operation Hailstone begins. U.S. naval air, surface, and submarine attack against Truk (Chuuk), Japan's main base in the central Pacific, in support of the Eniwetok invasion.
- Feb 16 1945 – WW2: Bataan Recaptured. The Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines is occupied by American troops, almost three years after the devastating and infamous Bataan Death March.
- Feb 16 1951 – Cold War: In a statement focusing on the situation in Korea, Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin charges that the United Nations has become “a weapon of aggressive war.” He also suggested that although a world war was not inevitable “at the present time,” “warmongers” in the West might trigger such a conflict.
- Feb 16 1960 – The U.S. Navy submarine USS Triton begins Operation Sandblast, setting sail from New London, Connecticut, to begin the first submerged circumnavigation of the globe.
- Feb 16 1968 – Vietnam: U.S. officials report that, in addition to the 800,000 people listed as refugees prior to January 30, the fighting during the Tet Offensive has created 350,000 new refugees.
- Feb 16 2006 – The last Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) is decommissioned by the United States Army.
- Feb 17 1782 – American Revolution: The worldwide implications of the American War for Independence are made clear on this day as the American-allied French navy begins a 14-monthlong series of five battles with the British navy in the Indian Ocean.
- Feb 17 1864 – Civil War: The Confederate H.L. Hunley in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina becomes the first submarine to engage and sink a warship, the USS Housatonic.
- Feb 17 1865 – Civil War: Columbia, South Carolina, is burned as Confederate forces flee from advancing Union forces.
- Feb 17 1915 – WW1: After encountering a severe snowstorm, the German zeppelin L-4 crash lands in the North Sea near the Danish coastal town of Varde.
- Feb 17 1944 – WW2: Battle of Eniwetok - Operation Catchpole is launched as American troops devastate the Japanese defenders and take control of the atoll in the northwestern part of the Marshall Islands.

Life Members			Members A-S			Honorary Members		
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name	
Acton	Chris		Abel	Colin		Read WO1	Ben	
Beckett	David	SM	Abraham	Michael	SM	Benveniste LTCOL	Sam	
Benveniste	Sam	SM	Attenborough	Geoff		Wilson MAJGEN	Neil	
Blackmore	Bill		Bampton	Michael	SM	Honorary Member for Life		
Boscence	Bob		Bennett	Christian	SM			
Brookes	Philip		Blondell	Mark	SM			
Burnard	Trent	SM	Brown	Bruce		Beames	Rodney	
Burns	Wayne		Burnard	Saxon	SM	Associate Life Members		
Carnachan	Ian		Burton	Ray		Last Name	First Name	
Carpenter	Ian		Buttars	Erik		Elliott	Julie	
Cotton	Bob		Carlisle	Lesley-Ann	SM ∑	Field	Shirley	
Dart	John		Cooke	Nat		Johnson	Sally	
Davey	Trevor		Cram	Kevin	∑	Laing	June	
Elliott	Graham		Demosani	Tony		Phillips	Heather	
Gaborit	Lyndon		Dew	Trevor		Sanderson	Lorraine	
Harris	Lachlan		Domanski	Glenn		Associate Members		
Hawking	Don		Dunn	Bob		Last Name	First Name	
Haynes	Malcolm	SM	Dunn	Peter		Abel	Karen	
Higgins	Jonathon	SM	Eva	Keith		Brown	Jenni	
Higgins	Jonathon		Ewens	Mimi	SM	Carnachan	Dom ∑	
Hogan	Mark		Faquiri	Reshad	SM	Dunn	Trish	
Hook	Alan		Faunt	Joshua	SM	Hudson	Margaret	
Hope	David		Foy	Erin	SM	Johnson	Margaret	
Horseman	Ian		Gatley	Graham	▲	Parsonage	Yvonne	
Hudson	Mike		Ghanem	Paul	SM	Pollard	Kay	
Jackson	Aaron	SM	Gibson	Lindsay		Toy	Jill	
James	Grant	SM	Gill	Graham		Tregenza	Lyn	
Jeffrey	Scott		Goodwin	Graham	SM	Winger	Kathleen	
Johnson	Paul		Gordon	Frank		Honorary Member for Life		1
Johnson	Barry		Groffen	Renee		Honorary Members		3
Klopf	Alex		Harrington	Malcolm		Life Members		49
Laing	David		Harrison	John		Serving Life Members		11
Lakin	Bruce		Harrison	Keith		Members		77
Marlin	Robin	SM	Harrison	Nigel		Serving Members		40
Meredith	Michael	SM	Hawkins	Des		Associate Life Members		5
Miller	Nick		Higgins	Kevin		Associate Members		11
Moore	Terry		Hill	Max		Total financial members		155
Moore	Thomas	SM	Hudson	Rick		Prepaid Members ∑ 2021/22 ▲ 2022/23		
Paul	John		Hume	Matthew	SM			
Pollard	Barry		Humphrys	Jesse	SM ∑			
Salamon	Piotr		Jones	Brett				
Sanderson	Max		Koop	Joshua	SM	Please welcome new member Chaplain Paul Ghanem, Padre of 10/27 Battalion.		
Standing	Michael		Loveder	Peter				
Stewart	Robin		Matchett	William				
Stewien	Peter		McCulloch	Don				
Vella	Joe		McIver	Bill				
Waters	Ian		Mitchell	Barry				
Watters	Matthew	SM	Moroney	Frank				
Westover	Rhys		Mulroney	Dennis				
Wilson	Graham		Normadale	Zachary	SM			
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg		Oakley	Andrew				
Members	S - Z		O'Daly	Ryan	SM			
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Orrock	Alan				
Sanders	Ashley	SM ∑	Parslow	Howard	∑			
Schuh	Simon	SM	Parsonage	James				
Scott	Rhys	SM	Pascoe	Michael				
Skapin	Corey	SM	Payne	Bob				
Smith	Ryan	SM	Pexton	Timothy	SM			
Sniedze	Julie	SM	Phillips	Colin Rex				
Tasker	David		Portakiewicz	Anthony	SM ∑			
Thomas	David		Portakiewicz	David	SM ∑			
Thomson	Jim		Powell	Gary				
Tregenza	Norm		Preece	Brian				
Treziise	George		Rado	Steven				
Tsoulakis	Christos	SM	Ramm	Hank				
Tucker	Belinda	SM	Ranger	Denis				
Vozelj	Blaz	SM	Robertson	James				
Weepers	Nicole	SM	Rossetti	Lee				
Wheeler	Chris		Sage	Andrew				



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**Membership Category****Date of Application** / /

<input type="checkbox"/> Full Membership \$20 (Former member of the RSAR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Serving Military Member Must have served with the RSAR or a sub unit. FREE 1st year. \$10 thereafter while still serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Non Voting Associate Member \$10 (Spouses, non former members of RSAR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (Once only payment) FULL Life Member \$200 ASSOCIATE Life Member \$100

My Details - Please print clearly

Full Name:	Postal Address:
Date of Birth:	Email:
Mobile No:	How did you hear about the Association?
Regt No. or PMKeys No.	
Period of Service / / to / /	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Serving Member of the RSAR or Sub Unit
Spouse/Partners name.	Have you been a member since then? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Method of Payment

<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque or Money Order - Payable to The Treasurer Christian Bennett RSAR Association Inc 5 Ashwin Parade Torrensville SA 5031	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Funds Transfer Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc BSB 633 000 Account 1616 585 88 Include your <u>name</u> as an identifier								
<input type="checkbox"/> CASH (In person to the Committee)	<input type="checkbox"/> I have paid my Fees by <u>Cheque</u> to the Association Account listed below and posted to The Secretary RSAR Association PO Box 5218 Murray Bridge South SA 5253 <table border="1"><tr><td>Account Name:</td><td>RSAR Association Inc</td></tr><tr><td>Bank:</td><td>Bendigo Bank</td></tr><tr><td>BSB:</td><td>633 000</td></tr><tr><td>Acct #</td><td>1616 585 88</td></tr></table>	Account Name:	RSAR Association Inc	Bank:	Bendigo Bank	BSB:	633 000	Acct #	1616 585 88
Account Name:	RSAR Association Inc								
Bank:	Bendigo Bank								
BSB:	633 000								
Acct #	1616 585 88								

☐ I understand that receipt of this application constitutes my acceptance of the Associations Rules as set down in the Constitution found at the web-site address below. I also authorise the processing of my preferred method of payment and acknowledge that I may be required to provide proof of past or current military service as required.

Website: www.rsara.asn.au