

"SITREP, OVER!"

Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

JULY 2021

Patron - Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing

0407 791 822

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPARE TIME?

You do? Really? Well why didn't you say something?



As members of a fraternity of current and former serving members of the Regiment, we are involved with a number of different organisations, and one of them, the Army Museum of South Australia (AMOSA) is looking for personnel who may be able to offer some time for data entry/auditing of Historical Collections, including the Gray Collection and the RSAR Historical Collection. Member Des Hawkins (our own Historical Officer) volunteers in more ways than one, and he is seeking support to replace volunteers who are standing aside due to age etc. Des writes:

THE RSAR HISTORICAL COLLECTION.

The Royal South Australia Historical Collection has been built up over a number of years due to the dedication of many individuals, least of all, its former curator Maj. Jeff Ayles (Retd.) who recently commented that he has been involved with it for the past 50 years or more.

Since taking over from Jeff as The Collection Curator in 2018, I have been fortunate to gather a very diligent and hard working group of 5 volunteers who turn up every Wednesday at the Keswick Army Museum to assist identify, catalogue and photograph artefacts pertaining to our collection.

As a Unit collection it is officially an Army Office approved military collection - museum which is directed by the 10/27 RSAR Commanding Officer and Regimental Council to preserve and protect Regimental property relating to the history of the Infantry in South Australia and in particular the battalions of the Regiment spanning the British Garrison era 1836 – 1870; The Colonial Army period 1870 – 1901 and the Commonwealth era from 1901 to date.

Originally housed at the Torrens Training Depot, insufficient space severely restricted the ability to display as well as allow public access to the collection.

In 1990 a significant bequest was made to the Battalion on the death of a Mr. Robert Gray of his private collection containing some 6000 items of Australasian and British Empire militaria spanning the colonial era to the mid-20th century. Designated the Robert Gray collection it was considered to be one of the most extensive private collections at that time.



ITEMS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH

- 2021 AGM Notice Page 2
- Soldier Profile Page 3
- CPL Numbnutz Page 5,6,7
- The CSM's birthday Page 8.
- RSAR Historical Collection Page 9
- The AMOSA Gun Page 10
- Strange Sayings Page 11 & 12
- The Malay Emergency Page 13/14
- Letters to the Editor Page 15
- Application to Join Page 18
- Editorial / Contact Us Page 16
- Next Band Gig Page 17
- The Somme Page 18/19/20



Continued on Page 9.



RSAR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU

Annual General Meeting

1st August 2021 (Sunday) 1100 hrs

AVOCA HOTEL

South Rd Clarence Gardens

Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc



1100 hrs - AGM

1200 hrs - LUNCH.

- **Full Menu Available**
- **All Welcome**
- **Come along and meet the team, have your say.**

You are asked to contact the Secretary on 0407 791 822 or davidlaing49@bigpond.com **NOT LATER THAN Friday 23rd July** to register your attendance (or apologies).

ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND
WIVES & PARTNERS MOST WELCOME

SOLDIER PROFILE

David Mercer

From time to time I shall feature the profiles of some of our members, and those of non-members. In my time with 10 RSAR, the Army Cadet system and this Association I came across this gentleman a number of times, and I thought his service record was one of interest, particularly the length of service. I did a short stint with 3/9th SAMR (LH) back in the early 70's, and first met David Mercer then, when they paraded at Thomas Street Unley. I met him again when 10 RSAR and 3/9th exercised together on AFEs at Cultana and other horrible places. Our paths crossed again when my daughter joined the Army Reserve and was sent to the PRT Centre at Keswick Barracks for 4 weeks prior to Recruit Training. She is still in after 22 years service. David Mercer was her Instructor then. This is his story.

WO2 David Mercer was born in Manchester, England in 1948. His military career commenced with the British Army as an Army Apprentice with the Royal Engineers, he emigrated to Adelaide in 1966 with his parents and younger brother. He enlisted in the CMF on the 29th September, 1967, aged 18, into 3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles and has been a member of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) for 51 years.

He has moved through the ranks qualifying in all aspects of a Cavalry soldier in the RAAC and has served in the following units over his long career in the Australian Defence Force;



3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles, (TPR)

Royal West Australian Regiment, (TPR)

A Squadron 10th Light Horse, (TPR)

A Squadron, 3rd/9th Light Horse (SAMR), (TPR-SGT)

Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU), (SGT, Instructor)

4th Training Group (4 TRG GP), (SGT, Instructor)

Adelaide University Regiment (AUR), (WO2, CSM)

A Squadron 3rd/9th Light Horse (SAMR), (WO2, TRG WO, SSM)

Headquarters 9th Brigade (HQ 9 BDE), (WO2, OIC Pre Recruit Trg Centre)

Army Personnel Agency – Adelaide (APA-A), (WO2, Career Manager - Arms)

Headquarters, South Australia, Australian Army Cadets Brigade (HQ SA AAC BDE), (WO2, Senior Instructor)

Army Safe Advisory Service (ASAS). (WO2, Compliance Officer)

Army Compliance Assurance Team (ACAT). (WO2, Compliance Advisor)
Army Compliance Assurance Unit (ACAU). (WO2, Technical Assurance Officer – Safety)

In his regimental appointments, he moved through the ranks in 3rd/9th Light Horse (South Australian Mounted Rifles), culminating in his position as the Squadron Sergeant Major. He has been an instructor at OCTU and 4 TRG GP, he was the OIC of the Pre Recruit Training Centre at HQ 9th Brigade and the Career Manager – Arms at APA-A. He is a qualified WHS Compliance Officer / Compliance Advisor with ACAU.

Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) Mercer holds the Reserve Force Medal (RFM) with seven clasps and the Australian Defence Medal and has been awarded a commendation from the Commander 2nd Division MAJGEN McGrath for his dedicated service as the OIC of HQ 9 Bde Pre Recruit Training Centre

In his civilian career, WO2 Mercer was in sales for most of his working career except for his last job as a Sheriff's Officer with the Courts Administration Authority (CAA) located at the Supreme and District Courts in Adelaide and retired from there after 11.5 years in December 2013 to concentrate on his Technical Assurance Officer – Safety duties with ACAU. He has been married to Sandra for 39 years; they have two adult children and six grandchildren.

His interests, aside from the ADF are caravanning and the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association (30 years) as the Secretary, Webmaster and newsletter editor.



Crew Commander David Mercer Ex Rhino Charge 1990

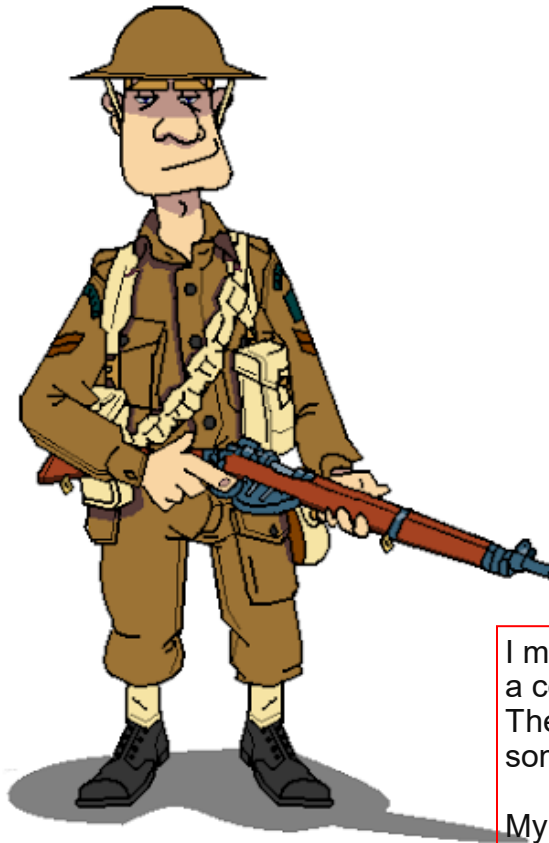


David Mercer. ANZAC Day 2021.

He has 7 Clasps to his Reserve Forces Medal and 3 Federation Stars, an amazing achievement by anyone's standards.

Well done David, and thank you for your service.

Corporal Numbnutz Funnies.



So.....you've been eating hotdogs and McChickens all your life, but don't want the vaccine, because, "you don't know what's in it"?

FIRST PICTURE OF WATER ON MARS...



I mowed the lawn today, and after doing so I sat down and had a cold beer.

The day was really quite beautiful, and the drink facilitated some deep thinking.

My wife walked by and asked me what I was doing, and I said, "Nothing."

The reason I said "nothing" instead of saying "just thinking" is because she then would have asked, "About what?"

At that point I would have had to explain that men are deep thinkers about various topics, which would lead to other questions.

Finally I pondered an age old question: Is giving birth more painful than getting kicked in the nuts?

Women always maintain that giving birth is way more painful than a guy getting kicked in the nuts, but how could they know?

Well, after another beer, and some more heavy deductive thinking, I have come up with an answer to that question.

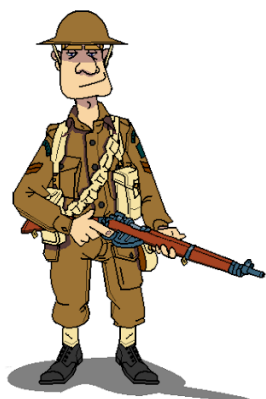
Getting kicked in the nuts is more painful than having a baby, and even though I obviously couldn't really know, here is the reason for my conclusion:

A year or so after giving birth, a woman will often say, "It might be nice to have another child."

But you never hear a guy say, "You know, I think I would like another kick in the nuts."

I rest my case.

Time for another beer. Then maybe a nap.



A nice, calm, and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said, "I would like to buy some cyanide."

The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

The lady replied, "I need it to poison my husband."

The pharmacist's eyes got big and he exclaimed, "Lord have mercy! I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband. Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any cyanide!"

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife.

The pharmacist looked at the picture and said, "You didn't tell me you had a prescription."

**For those weddings
cancelled due to
COVID-19. God is giving
you a second chance to
think about it.**

**A NEW STUDY FOUND
THAT PEOPLE WHO TAKE THEIR
COFFEE BLACK ARE MORE LIKELY
TO EXHIBIT PSYCHOPATHIC
TRAITS.**

**AND PEOPLE WHO ORDER A QUAD
SHOT, NON-FAT, VANILLA SOY,
EXTRA FOAM, LIGHT WHIP WITH
CARAMEL DRIZZLE ARE MORE
LIKELY TO BE THEIR VICTIMS.**

**Paddy took 2 stuffed
dogs to the Antiques
Roadshow....**

**"Ooh!" Said the
presenter, "This is a
very rare breed, do
you have any idea
what they would fetch
if they were in good
condition?"**

"Sticks." replied Paddy.

**Paddy stumbles across a mass
baptism at a river.
He walks into the river and
stands next to the preacher
"Are you ready to find Jesus my
son?"**

**Paddy says, "I am sir"
Preacher puts him under the
water then says, "Have you
found Jesus?"**

"No sir "

**He then puts him under for
longer...**

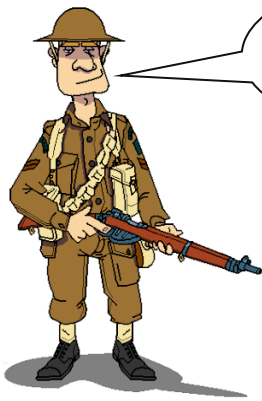
"Have you found Jesus?"

"No sir"

**He puts him under for 2
minutes...**

"Have you found Jesus?"

**Paddy says, "Are you sure this is
where he fell in?"**



Apologies to my Irish brothers, but I couldn't resist these jokes!

Paddy and his two friends are talking at a bar.

Keep Calm And Oh Fock It Enjoy Some Craic

**His first friend says:
"I think my wife is having an affair with the Electrician, the other day I came home and found wire cutters under our bed and they weren't mine."**

**His second friend says:
"I think my wife is having an affair with the plumber, the other day I found a wrench under the bed and it wasn't mine."**

**Paddy says:
"I think my wife is having an affair with a horse."**

Both his friends looked at him with utter disbelief.

"No, I'm serious, the other day I came home and found a jockey under our bed."

**"Mr. Murphy, "I have reviewed this case very carefully" the divorce court judge said, "And I have decided to give your wife £775 a week."
"That's very fair your honor" the husband said, "And every now and then I will try to send her a few quid myself"**

**Paddy says to Murphy,
"Have u seen the news? 3 Cliff Walkers have fallen to their deaths!"
"Unbelievable, said Murphy, I can't believe they all had the same name!"**

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The CSM's 80th birthday bash

A function was held at the Republic Hotel in Norwood on Sunday 30th May to celebrate the 80th birthday of RSAR stalwart Ian Carnachan, former Company Sergeant Major of A Company 10 RSAR when they were based at the Alberton Training Depot in Sussex Street Alberton.

A group of about 30 family and friends gathered to help Ian recount the many years he gave the CMF (Army Reserve) from 1967 onwards.

Some speeches were made (a couple of them telling the truth about Ian) and a number of bottles of whiskey and port were given to Ian to help him remember this momentous occasion. Old mate John Harrison phoned in from Darwin to wish Ian all the best on the day. Heather Phillips told of her first meeting with the "Alberton Bunch" and she said although she was unimpressed with husband Trevor's timing, she had remained friends with the entire group to this day.

The evening ended with the Old and Bold singing an A Company Battle Song, which nearly ended with everyone being shown the door. (Some minor changes were made to remain

The event was well organised as a SURPRISE party by Ian's wife Dom, Ian's daughters Erin and Shari, with Lyndon Gaborit doing most of the admin and log. We thank them and the guests for their stealth in making it a great success.

AVE GALLUS ROSEATUS. MULTO VINO. (More pics on our Facebook page)



Continued from Page 1. A formal decision was finally made to re-locate the Regimental and Robert Gray collections with the newly formed Army Museum at Keswick Barracks. On the 8th of August 1999 the then Honorary Colonel, Sir Eric Neal opened the RSAR display at the Army Museum of South Australia (AMOSA).

My team is currently cataloguing and photographing every item from the Robert Gray collection in preparation for entry to the new database “COLLECTIONS MOSAIC” a collections management and archiving software specifically for Museums arts & heritage organisations.

First priority has been given to completing the Robert Gray collection which is approximately 80% complete. However the same cannot be said for the 3000 or more items in the Regimental Collection. These artefacts are held/ displayed in various locations within Keswick Barracks including 10/27 RSAR BHQ. and the majority still require identification, photographing and cataloguing.

While none of us are getting any younger and in the interest of continuity I am seeking a couple of younger members to join our team of volunteers here at the Keswick Army Museum. Requirements are an interest in the history of the Regiment and assisting with maintaining and conservation of the Historical Collection.

With the amount of data entry presently required, computer literacy would be an advantage.

Induction would have to be carried out by AMOSA and we meet every Wednesday 0800 – 1400. Contact me on 0434 676 050 if you have any questions.
Regards

Des Hawkins

Curator – RSAR Historical Collection



Current RSAR Historical Collection Team – Des Hawkins, Jeff Ayles, Martin Forsyth, Bob Cotton, Libby Klatzis, Jim Thomson



Gray Collection - Shako helmet 40th of foot - on display Bld.76 Keswick Museum



LEFT: Japanese flag and swords captured by 2/43rd Bn. South West Pacific WW2- part of the RSAR Historical collection.



RIGHT: Photo taken By Pte. Jack Hitch 1 Sect. 2/10th Bn. of Captured German Bomber forced down near Salisbury Plain England 1940.



Restoring the 18 Pounder Gun

Recycling is important to our lives now, but this is not a 21st Century idea. Believe it or not, the first instance of recycling was performed by the Australian Army during World War II, when they resurrected an 18 pounder gun left over from World War I and put it to good use in France in 1940.

We must firstly recognise the outstanding service this gun gave during WWI, and the Australian gunners who toiled under extreme conditions in serving this weapon.

During World War I (and between the two world wars) the 18 pdr gun was the main, and most successful, field gun in service in the British, Australian and other allied armies. 18 pdr guns in service with Australian artillery units saw service in Gallipoli, but really came to the fore in the horrific campaigns in France and the Western Front. In speaking of the success of the Australian second division in late September 1918 (Australia's last attack of the war), Brigadier-General Coxen (artillery adviser to the Australian Corps commander, Lieutenant-General Monash) reported that "the success of the operations of this corps is, in very great measure, due to the excellent work of the field artillery", ('the Gunners, (1995) David Horner).

As an indicator of the significance of the 18 pdr gun during World War I, in the lead up to each of the key battles, such as Fromelles and Amiens, over 1.5 million rounds of 18 pdr ammunition were stockpiled, and between 26 September and 4 October 1918, only 9 days, over 934,000 rounds of 18 pdr ammunition were fired by allied artillery.

18th Battery, Australian Field Artillery was an Adelaide Unit equipped with 18 pdr guns. The guns were in action for 602 days of the 1227 days overseas – during that time 146,264 rounds were fired. These quantities of ammunition are mind-boggling!



The 18 pdr gun was modernised between the wars by converting the wooden spoke wheels to large truck wheels fitted with pneumatic tyres, which allowed them to be towed by trucks, instead of a team of six horses, hence the first invention of recycling. The ammunition limbers were still used with the trucks.

Museum volunteers have worked long and hard to restore this gun to its original condition. To achieve this the truck wheels and pneumatic tyres were removed and our Wheelwright, Peter Foster, created a replica of the original wooden spoke wheels. With the expert advice of Engineer Frank Miller, the new stub axle components were also produced.

It is well worth the effort for visitors to come to the Museum and stand before this mighty weapon to witness the dedication and expertise of the volunteers who toiled to resurrect this piece of our history.

Now where did THAT saying come from?

The English language, although hard to learn and unexplainably complicated, traces its origins back many centuries. Many common sayings are never explained, until now! Try these for a start!

"It'll cost you an arm and a leg!"

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are "limbs," therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."



"He's a Big Wig!"



As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October)! Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term "big wig." Today we often use the term "here comes the Big Wig" because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

"Chairman of the Board."

In the late 1700s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The "head of the household" always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the "chair man." Today in business, we use the expression or title "Chairman" or "Chairman of the Board."

"Losing face!"

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, "mind your own bee's wax." Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term "crack a smile." In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt Therefore, the expression "losing face."



"Straight laced!"

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, wore a tightly tied lace. as in "straight laced".



Now where did THAT saying come from?

Part 2

"Playing with a FULL DECK!"

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the "Ace of Spades." To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't "playing with a full deck."



"The local GOSSIP!"

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to "go sip some ale" and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. "You go sip here" and "You go sip there." The two words "go sip" were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term "gossip."

"Mind your P's and Q's!"

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in "pints" and who was drinking in "quarts," hence the term "minding your 'P's and Q's."

One more, and I bet you didn't know this!

"Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey."

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations.

However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey."



(All this time, you thought that was an improper expression about a freezing monkey, didn't you?)

THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY 1948 - 1960



The Malayan Emergency was declared on 18 June 1948, after three estate managers were murdered in Perak, northern Malaya. The men were murdered by guerrillas of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP), an outgrowth of the anti-Japanese guerrilla movement which had emerged during the Second World War. Despite never having had more than a few thousand members, the MCP was able to draw on the support of many disaffected Malayan Chinese, who were upset that British promises of an easier path to full Malayan citizenship had not been fulfilled. The harsh post-war economic and social conditions also contributed to the rise of anti-government activity.



The Malayan government was slow to react to the MCP at first and did not appoint a director of operations to counter the insurgency until March 1950. The new director planned to address the underlying economic, social, and political problems facing the Chinese community while, at the same time, bringing government control to the fringe areas where the MCP received much of its support. Before this plan was fully implemented, however, the situation deteriorated further with the assassination of the British High Commissioner in October 1951. The attack galvanised British resolve to meet the threat posed by the MCP; the Malayan government, in turn, stepped up

counter-insurgency measures. Prolonged operations were undertaken against the communists in an effort to destroy their base of support in local communities and to drive them into the jungle, where it would be difficult for them to receive supplies from supporters.

Australia's involvement in the Emergency began in 1950 with the arrival of RAAF aircraft and personnel in Singapore. Dakotas from 38 Squadron were deployed on cargo runs, troop movements, and para-troop and leaflet drops in Malaya, while six Lincoln bombers of

1 Squadron provided the backbone of airlift operations. As the capacity of army and police units operating against the communists improved, however, the need for air power decreased, and by 1952 Lincolns were increasingly used as part of combined air-ground assaults against the communists. One of the major military successes of the conflict was one such coordinated operation in July 1954, east of Ipoh, in Perak state. In Operation Termite, as the exercise was known, five RAAF Lincolns and six from a RAF squadron made simultaneous attacks on two communist camps, followed by paratroop drops, a ground attack, and further bombing runs ten days later. The operation destroyed 181 camps and killed 13 communists; one communist surrendered.



An Australian officer from 1 RAR leads a Rifle Section of Singaporean soldiers on patrol in the Malayan jungle.

THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY Continued



Soldiers of 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), in the jungle north of Baling, near the Thai border, Malaya, 1960.

By October 1955, when the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), arrived in Penang, the outcome of the Emergency was no longer in doubt, although a lengthy "mopping up" stage followed, largely undertaken by Australian troops. After several false starts 2RAR crossed to the mainland in January 1956 to begin anti-communist operations. Over the next 20 months, as part of 28 Commonwealth Brigade, 2RAR participated in a variety of operations, mainly in Perak, one of the main areas of communist activity. Their work consisted of extensive patrolling, watching for contacts in the rubber plantations, and mounting a perimeter guard on the New Villages, settlements which the government had established to provide infrastructure and services in outlying areas in the hope of denying the guerrillas access to their support base. Contacts were rare, however, and the battalion had a mixed record, killing two communists in an ambush on 25 June 1956 but losing three of its own troops.

2RAR left Malaya in October 1957 and was replaced by 3RAR in the same month. After six weeks of training in jungle warfare 3RAR began driving the insurgents into the jungle in Perak and Kedah, separating them from food and other supplies. Early successes for the battalion confirmed the growing ascendancy of the security forces over the communists and by April 1959 one of the main communist centres, Perak, was declared secure. By late 1959 operations against the communists were in their final phase and many communists had crossed Malaya's northern border into Thailand. 3RAR left Malaya in October 1959 to be replaced by 1RAR. Although operating in the border region 1RAR made no contact with the enemy and was forbidden to move into Thailand, even when the presence and location of communists was known.

As the threat continued to dissipate, the Malayan government officially declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960, though 1RAR remained in Malaya until October the following year, when 2RAR returned for a second tour. In August 1962 the battalion was committed to anti-communist operations in Perlis and Kedah, completing its tour in August 1963.

In addition to air and infantry forces, Australia also provided artillery and engineering support, and an airfield construction squadron built the main runway for the air force base at Butterworth. RAN ships also served in Malayan waters had occasion to fire on suspected communist positions in 1956 and 1957. Australian ground forces in Malaya formed part of Australia's contribution to the Far East Strategic Reserve, which was set up in April 1955 primarily to deter external communist aggression against countries in south-east Asia, especially Malaya and Singapore.

Lasting 13 years, the Malayan Emergency was the longest continuous military commitment in Australia's history. Thirty-nine Australian servicemen were killed in Malaya, although only 15 of these deaths occurred as a result of operations, and 27 were wounded, most of whom were in the army.

From an article in the Sydney Morning Herald 2016

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Des

I have some limited info on the Brass Hats, mentioned in your newsletter last month..

The Brass Hats were an association formed at John Martins for Ex Service men and women.

After World War 2 John Martins through its owner Sir Edward Hayward was very receptive to any ex members of the armed services. Any ex members who were looking for work were employed at John Martins. As I understand not too many were knocked back

Somewhere along the way the Brass Hats was formed as an internal association for current and ex staff. I joined the company and worked there for a number of years. Because of my involvement with the CMF I was invited to join the association. Occasionally we would have a gathering after work in the cafeteria for a meal. Harold Lampre was a staff member at John Martins at that time.

Unfortunately I cannot give any more info. I did track down a guy in Melbourne who is working on a book about John Martins. He has collected a lot of past history but nothing on the Brass Hats.

Joe Vella

Former WO2 10 Bn RSAR

I have forwarded this info to Des Hawkins, RSARA Historical Officer. Editor.

To our readers

From time to time we receive strange payments into our Association Bank Account that we can't understand or explain. Sometimes a member will forget they paid their annual subs via EFT and make another payment a couple of months later. This is picked up by our Treasurer and credit given where necessary.

Sometimes a member will make an EFT payment of \$22 instead of \$20. A simple slip of the finger and brain. We usually keep that as a \$2 donation, as it's not worth the hassle of trying to return it. At other times members forget to pay altogether, and within no time I will email them, abuse the lights out of them, and we end up friends again after they've made amends!

Last month we received a \$300 EFT payment from a "PW & S Johnson" with "RSAR" as the identifier. We have no idea who PW & S Johnson are! We have a paid Life Member Barry Johnson, who doesn't need to pay subs, and his lovely wife Margaret, who is an Associate Member, but neither of those are the Johnsons' we are looking for.

If you are **THE** PW & S Johnson, and you recently made a \$300 payment to our account, please contact me ASAP so we can sort out this anomaly.

If nothing is heard within a month, the RSAR Association thanks you for your kind anonymous donation!

Cheers

David Laing

Secretary / Editor

As you can see on Page 3 of this edition, I have featured a Soldier Profile of a colleague with an exemplary service record. As a semi-regular feature I shall be focussing on the Profiles of some of our own members in the future, and will periodically send out requests for information. If you don't feel like revealing details of your past (no matter how sordid) I may be forced to make up some stories about you, depending on how I'm feeling on the day. It is hoped you feel like sending something in!

July 1st is the 105th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, some would say a turning point in WW1. Others would say a terrible waste of lives on both sides. You can make up your own minds by reading Page 18, 19 and 20 of this newsletter.

Last month, along with about 35 others, I had the privilege of attending an 80th birthday celebration for my former CSM Ian Carnachan at the Republic Hotel in Norwood. Ian's family combined with Lyndon Gaborit to plan the surprise party, and it worked a treat. I related a pack of lies about Ian's past, but others, including the lovely Heather Phillips, spoke realms about Ian's friendship over the years. Ian wasn't my first CSM, but he was the one I still hold dearly as a friend and mentor. His professionalism, manner, intelligence and humour were what made him a "man amongst men," and I need to look a lot further to find a truer mate. Happy Birthday CSM!



I usually check up on mates regularly from time to time, but occasionally one may slip below the radar, and the next thing I know I'm reading about them in the Obituaries. I kick myself for letting myself get so slack, and there's no second chances here! Once they're gone, they're gone for ever, so the time to check on them is NOW! One of my mates, who I admire immensely, recently had a drastic change in his life that must have been terribly hard to deal with. I've been through similar circumstances myself, so I know the pain he must have felt, and I'm kicking myself I didn't cotton on sooner! I couldn't have fixed his problem, but I could have let him know I was there for him. He's recovering, but still, I should have been there when he needed me. Thankfully he's a popular guy, and is back on the good track, but I still feel I could have gone the extra mile and "helped carry some of his baggage!" I'm trying harder from now on!

As advertised on Page 2 of this newsletter, the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the RSAR Association is to be held on Sunday 1st August at the Avoca Hotel on South Road at Clarence gardens. Easy to find and heaps of parking at the rear. Some important changes to the Constitution need to be voted on, and your vote will help. I urge you all to make the effort to attend, vote on what matters, have a great meal and catch up with mates in a relaxed, social atmosphere. See you there!

David Laing - Secretary / Editor



Contact Us, via

**The Secretary
David Laing**

**Royal South Australia
Regiment Association Inc.
PO Box 5218 Murray Bridge
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0407 791 822



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Visit us on the web at

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

THE PARTNERS OF VETERANS ASSOCIATION—SA¹⁷

Proudly Presents

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Featuring

The Band of the 10th/27th Battalion



SUNDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER at 2:00pm

The Band of the 10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment will be performing a Concert on Sunday the 12th September featuring a variety of the Band's ensembles and special guests the Australian Military Wives choir.

TICKETS \$20.

ST. PETER'S GIRLS SCHOOL, STONYFELL RD, STONYFELL.

For tickets and further information contact Chris on 0468 786 241, or

Angela on 0416 221 328, or Linda on 0417 081 150.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/151605487093>



1st July 1916 The Battle of The Somme

The Battle of the Somme is one of the most infamous battles of the First World War. The battle took place between 1 July and 18 November, 1916. After 18 months of deadlock in the trenches on the Western Front, the Allies wanted to achieve a decisive victory. In 1915, a plan was finalised for a joint British and French offensive the following year. However, the German attack against the French at Verdun meant that the British were forced to take the lead. The plan for the Somme was devised by Sir Douglas Haig and Sir Henry Rawlinson. The huge casualties suffered during the Battle of the Somme played a significant part in earning Haig the nickname 'The Butcher'.

Here are 5 facts about the Battle of the Somme.

1. THE BATTLE LASTED NEARLY 5 MONTHS.



The Battle of the Somme was one of the most bitterly contested and costly battles of the First World War, lasting nearly five months. Despite this, it is often the first day of the battle that is most remembered. The offensive began on 1 July 1916 after a week-long artillery bombardment of the German lines. Advancing British troops found that the German defences had not been destroyed as expected and many units suffered very high casualties with little progress. The Somme became an attritional or 'wearing-out' battle. On 15 September, tanks were used for the first time with some success, but they did not bring a breakthrough any closer. Operations on the River Ancre continued with some gains, but in deteriorating weather conditions major operations on the Somme ended on 18 November.

Over the course of the battle, British forces took a strip of territory 6 miles (10km) deep by 20 miles (32km) long.

2. THERE WERE OVER A MILLION CASUALTIES

As an attritional offensive, the Battle of the Somme involved heavy casualties on both sides. By the end of the first day on 1 July 1916, British forces had suffered 57,470 casualties, of whom 19,240 were killed. This represented the largest losses suffered by the British Army in a single day. While casualty rates were not as high as that for the remainder of the offensive, they were consistently heavy as both sides fought intensively for every yard of ground within a relatively small geographical area.

In total over a million men from both sides – including Britain and her Empire forces, France and Germany – became casualties during the battle.

3. IT WAS THE FIRST MAJOR BATTLE OF BRITAIN'S NEW *VOLUNTEER* ARMY

The Battle of the Somme saw the first involvement in battle of many men who had volunteered for Army service in 1914 and 1915. This included men who had joined Pals battalions – infantry units that were made up of friends, relatives and workmates from the same communities. After around a year of training, most of these men began to see active service from late 1915 and early 1916, particularly on the Western Front. As a result, the Battle of the Somme, the largest offensive the British Army had yet launched, was the first to be fought by a largely citizen army made up of civilian volunteers rather than professional soldiers. This meant that many of the attacking British infantry did not have battlefield experience. As one French officer wrote on 10 July 1916, 'The British...infantry... is very brave but undergoing a costly apprenticeship'.



4. THE BRITISH ARMY GAINED VALUABLE *EXPERIENCE*

Although the British Army suffered heavy casualties for relatively little territorial gain on the Somme, the battle has increasingly been seen as important in providing experience that later contributed to victory on the Western Front. During the course of nearly five months of fighting on the Somme, an inexperienced citizen army began to evolve into a battle-hardened one. The same was also true of British commanders, who had never previously commanded troops on this scale before. Improvements were made in the use of artillery and infantry tactics, and new weapons, including tanks, began to be integrated in the British Army's methods. This came at a very high cost in casualties, but proved equally costly for the German Army, which began to realise that the British Army was becoming a major opponent.

5. 20 MILLION PEOPLE SAW *FILM FOOTAGE* FROM THE BATTLE

An official documentary film, *The Battle of the Somme*, was the first feature-length film to record soldiers in action. It was filmed by the official cinematographers Geoffrey Malins and John McDowell, who filmed the build-up and early days of the battle. When the film was shown in cinemas from 21 August 1916, an estimated 20 million people saw it in the first months of its release.

Many hoped to glimpse a son, brother, father or friend. It was intended to show that the 'Big Push' had been a success and that British soldiers were well supplied and cared for. The later phases of the Somme offensive were also represented in a follow up film, *The Battle of the Ancre and the Advance of the Tanks*, released in 1917.



Article from <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history> All pics from AWM.

Editors Note: The article above is from a UK based website, and although it poses some interesting questions and answers, I would ask "where is the mention of the Australians who took part in and died during this battle?"

In late July 1916, the Australians fought their first action in the Battle of the Somme. ... At dawn the Germans counter-attacked but the Australians held on. The rest of Pozières fell on the night of 23–24 July and further gains were made on the night of 24–25 July.

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
Ayles	Jeff		Abraham	Michael	SM	Benveniste LTCOL	Sam
Beckett	David	SM	Attenborough	Geoff		Wilson MAJGEN	Neil
Benveniste	Sam	SM	Bampton	Michael	SM		
Blackmore	Bill		Bennett	Christian	SM	Honorary Member for Life	
Boscence	Bob		Blondell	Mark	SM	Beames	Rodney
Bourne	Colin	SM	Brown	Bruce			
Brookes	Philip		Burnard	Saxon	SM	Associate Life Members	
Burnard	Trent	SM	Burton	Ray		Last Name	First Name
Burns	Wayne		Buttars	Erik		Elliott	Julie
Carnachan	Ian		Carlisle	Lesley-Ann	SM Σ	Field	Shirley
Carpenter	Ian		Cooke	Nat		Laing	June
Cotton	Bob		Cram	Kevin	Σ	Phillips	Heather
Dart	John		Demosani	Tony		Sanderson	Lorraine
Davey	Trevor		Dew	Trevor			
Elliott	Graham		Domanski	Glenn			
Gaborit	Lyndon		Dunn	Bob			
Harris	Lachlan		Dunn	Peter			
Hawking	Don		Eva	Keith		Associate Members	
Haynes	Malcolm	SM	Ewens	Mimi	SM	Last Name	First Name
Higgins	Jonathon	SM	Faquiri	Reshad	SM	Abel	Karen
Higgins	Jonathon		Faunt	Joshua	SM	Carnachan	Dom Σ
Hogan	Mark		Foy	Erin	SM	Collins	Peter
Hook	Alan		Gatley	Graham	▲	Dunn	Trish
Hope	David		Gibson	Lindsay		Hudson	Margaret
Horseman	Ian		Gill	Graham		Johnson	Margaret
Hudson	Mike		Goodwin	Graham	SM	Parsonage	Yvonne
Jackson	Aaron	SM	Gordon	Frank		Toy	Jill
James	Grant	SM	Harrington	Malcolm		Tregenza	Lyn
Johnson	Barry		Harrison	John		Winger	Kathleen
Klopf	Alex		Harrison	Keith			
Laing	David		Harrison	Nigel		Honourary Member for Life	1
Lakin	Bruce		Hawkins	Des		Honorary Members	3
Marlin	Robin	SM	Hill	Max		Life Members	48
Meredith	Michael	SM	Hudson	Rick		Serving Life Members	11
Moore	Terry		Hume	Matthew	SM	Members	76
Moore	Thomas	SM	Humphrys	Jesse	SM Σ	Serving Members	39
Paul	John		Jones	Brett		Associate Life Members	5
Pollard	Barry		Koop	Joshua	SM	Associate Members	9
Salamon	Piotr		Loveder	Peter		Total financial members	140
Sanderson	Max		Matchett	William			
Standing	Michael		McCulloch	Don		Prepaid Members	
Stewart	Robin		McIver	Bill			Σ 2021/22
Stewien	Peter		Mitchell	Barry			▲ 2022/23
Vella	Joe		Moroney	Frank		<div>NEW MEMBER</div> <div>This Month we welcome new life member Mike Hudson and new serving member Matthew Hume</div>	
Waters	Ian		Mulroney	Dennis			
Westover	Rhys		Normadale	Zachary	SM		
Wilson	Graham		Oakley	Andrew			
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg		O'Daly	Ryan	SM		
			Orrock	Alan			
			Parslow	Howard	Σ		
Members S - Z			Parsonage	James			
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Pascoe	Michael			
Sanders	Ashley	SM Σ	Payne	Bob			
Schuh	Simon	SM	Pexton	Timothy	SM		
Scott	Rhys	SM	Phillips	Colin Rex			
Skapin	Corey	SM	Portakiewicz	Anthony	SM Σ		
Smith	Ryan	SM	Portakiewicz	David	SM Σ		
Sniedze	Julie	SM	Powell	Gary			
Tasker	David		Preece	Brian			
Thomas	David		Rado	Steven			
Thomson	Jim		Ramm	Hank			
Tregenza	Norm		Ranger	Denis			
Trezise	George		Robertson	James			
Tsoulakis	Christos	SM	Rossetti	Lee			
Tucker	Belinda	SM	Sage	Andrew			
Weepers	Nicole	SM					
Wheeler	Chris						



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

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) <input type="checkbox"/> FULL Member \$200 <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE Member \$100

My Details - Please print clearly

Full Name:	Postal Address:
Date of Birth:	Email:
Mobile No:	How did you hear about the Association?
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 RSAR Association Christian Bennett 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 name as an identifier								
<input type="checkbox"/> CASH (In person to the Committee)	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (The Fire & Forget option) <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Account Name:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BSB:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Acct #</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Funds will be deducted at the start of each financial year and can be ceased on written notification to the Secretary or Treasurer</p>	Account Name:		Bank:		BSB:		Acct #	
Account Name:									
Bank:									
BSB:									
Acct #									

☐ I understand that receipt of this application constitutes my acceptance of the Associations Rules as set down in the Constitution found at the website 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



Please send this completed application, with any proof of service to the RSAR Association Secretary at davidlaing49@bigpond.com