

"SITREP, OVER!"

Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

MAY 2021

Patron - Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing

0407 791 822



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Our ANZAC signs make a statement, wherever they're displayed. Member Ian Carpenter from Quorn placed one on his home and the other at the Hawker War Memorial. Riverglen Marina at White Sands placed one outside their Marina Kiosk and yours truly affixed one to the back of his 4 WD for the world to see. The signs were the idea of RSARA committee member Norm Tregenza, and after some late starts last year, we ran with the idea and managed to sell out before ANZC Day. Thank you to everyone who sold some signs, and an even bigger thank you to those who purchased them. LEST WE FORGET.



The British Free Corps

Patriots or Traitors?

I watched an episode of Foyle's War on TV recently, a program I enjoy immensely, and in this episode they featured members of the British Free Corps. I had never heard of this group before, so decided to do some research into the subject. Here's what I found. Editor



The British Free Corps (German: *Britisches Freikorps*; BFC) was a unit of the Waffen-SS of Nazi Germany during World War II, made up of British and Dominion prisoners of war who had been recruited by Germany. The unit was originally known as the Legion of St George. Research by British historian Adrian Weale has identified 54 men who belonged to this unit at one time or another, some for only a few days. At no time did it reach more than 27 men in strength.

Formation

The idea for the British Free Corps came from John Amery, a British fascist, son of the serving British Secretary of State for India, Leo Amery. John Amery travelled to Berlin in October 1942, and proposed to the Germans the formation of a British volunteer force to help fight the bolsheviks. The British volunteer force was to be modelled after the *Légion des volontaires français contre le bolchévisme* (Legion of French Volunteers against Bolshevism), a French collaborationist force fighting with the German Wehrmacht. In addition to touting the idea of a British volunteer force, Amery actively tried to recruit Britons. He made a series of pro-German propaganda radio broadcasts, appealing to his fellow countrymen to join the war on communism.



Two early recruits to the BFC: Kenneth Berry and Alfred Minchin, with German officers, April 1944

The first recruits to the Corps came from a group of prisoners of war (POWs) at a 'holiday camp' set up by the Germans in Genshagen, a suburb of Berlin, in August 1943. In November 1943, they were moved to a requisitioned café in the Pankow district of Berlin. Recruits also came from an interrogation camp at Luckenwalde in late 1943. The Corps became a military unit on 1 January 1944, under the name 'The British Free Corps'. In the first week of February 1944, the BFC moved to the St Michaeli Kloster in Hildesheim, a small town near Hanover. Uniforms were issued on 20 April 1944 (Hitler's 55th birthday). On 11 October 1944, the Corps was moved to the Waffen-SS Pioneer school in Dresden, to start military training for service on the Eastern Front. On 24 February 1945, they travelled from Dresden to Berlin, where they stayed in a requisitioned school on the Schönhauser Allee. On 8 March 1945, they were moved to the village of Niemegek, a few miles to the south-west of Berlin.

Recruiting for the Free Corps was done in German POW camps. In 1944, leaflets were distributed to the POWs, and the unit was mentioned in *Camp*, the official POW newspaper published in Berlin. The unit was promoted "as a thoroughly volunteer unit, conceived and created by British subjects from all parts of the Empire who have taken up arms and pledged their lives in the common European struggle against Soviet Russia".

The attempted recruitment of POWs was done amid German fear of the Soviets; the Germans were "victims of their own propaganda" and thought that their enemies were as worried about the Soviets as they were. In one Dutch camp, cigarettes, fruit, and other items were lavished on the POWs while they listened to Nazi propaganda officers who described the good that the Germans were doing in Europe, then asked the men to join in fighting the real enemy, the Soviets.

Commanders

The BFC did not have a "commander" *per se* as it was the intention of the SS to appoint a British commander when a suitable British officer came forward. However, three German Waffen-SS officers acted as

the *Verbindungsoffizier* ("liaison officer") between the *SS-Hauptamt Amtsgruppe D/3*, which was responsible for the unit and the British volunteers, and in practice they acted as the unit commander for disciplinary purposes at least.



SS-Rottenführer William
Brittain, February 1945

These were:

SS-Hauptsturmführer Hans Werner Roepke: September 1943 – November 1944

SS-Obersturmführer Dr Walter Kühlich: November 1944 – April 1945

SS-Hauptsturmführer Dr Alexander Dolezalek: April 1945

A number of sources mention the involvement of Brigadier Leonard Parrington, a British Army officer captured by the Germans in Greece in 1941. This was based on a misunderstanding by some of the British volunteers after Parrington in the summer of 1943 had visited the POW "holiday camp" at Genshagen, in the southern suburbs of Berlin, as representative of the Senior British POW, Major General Victor Fortune. Parrington had told the assembled prisoners that he "knew the purpose of the camp" and the BFC volunteers who were there took this to mean that he approved of the unit. In reality, Parrington had accepted Genshagen at face value as a rest centre for POWs.



Members

Leading members of the Corps included Thomas Haller Cooper (although he was actually an *Unterscharführer* in the *Waffen-SS* proper), Roy Courlander, Edwin Barnard Martin, Frank McLardy, Alfred Minchin and John Wilson – these men "later became known among the renegades as the 'Big Six', although this was a notional elite whose membership shifted periodically as members fell into, and out of, favour." In 2002, it was claimed that A Robert Chipchase was by then the last surviving member of the British Free Corps. A claim he denied.

Preparation for active service

In March 1945, a BFC detachment was deployed with the 11th SS Volunteer Panzergrenadier Division Nordland under Brigadeführer Joachim Ziegler, which was composed largely of Scandinavian volunteers and attached to the III (Germanic) SS Panzer Corps under Obergruppenführer Felix Steiner. They were first sent from Stettin to the division's headquarters at Angermünde. "From there they were sent to join the divisional armoured reconnaissance battalion (11. SS-Panzer-Aufklärungsabteilung) located in Grüssow [on the island of Usedom]. The battalion commander was Sturmbannführer Rudolf Saalbach ... [The BFC were allocated to the 3rd Company, under the command of the Swedish Obersturmführer Hans-Gösta Pehrson." The BFC contingent was commanded by SS-Scharführer (squad leader) Douglas Mardon, who used the alias "Hodge". Richard W. Landwehr Jr. states "The Britons were sent to a company in the detachment that was situated in the small village of Schoenburg near the west bank of the Oder River". On 16 April 1945, the Corps was moved to Templin, where they were to join the transport company of Steiner's HQ staff (Kraftfahrstaffel StabSteiner). When the Nordland Division left for Berlin, 'the transport company followed Steiner's Headquarters to Neustrelitz and the BFC went with it.' On 29 April, Steiner decided 'to break contact with the Russians and order his forces to head west into Anglo-American captivity.' Thomas Haller Cooper and Fred Croft, the last two members of the Corps, surrendered on 2 May to the 121st Infantry Regiment (United States) in Schwerin, and were placed in the loose custody of the GHQ Liaison Regiment (known as Phantom).



From Osprey Men-At-Arms #34, "The Waffen-SS"

Courts-martial

Newspapers of the period give details of the court-martial of several Commonwealth soldiers involved in the Corps. One Canadian captive, Private Edwin Barnard Martin, said he joined the Corps "to wreck it". He designed the flag and banner used by the Corps, and admitted to being one of the original six or seven members of the Corps during his trial. He was given a travel warrant and a railway pass which allowed him to move around Germany without a guard. He was found guilty of two charges of aiding the enemy while a prisoner of war.

New Zealand soldier Roy Courlander claimed at his court-martial that he joined the Corps for similar reasons, to gather intelligence on the Germans, to foster a revolution behind the German lines, or to sabotage the unit if the revolution failed.

John Amery was sentenced to death in November 1945 for high treason, and hanged on 19 December 1945. There is also some evidence that Australian and New Zealand soldiers were part of the British Free Corps.

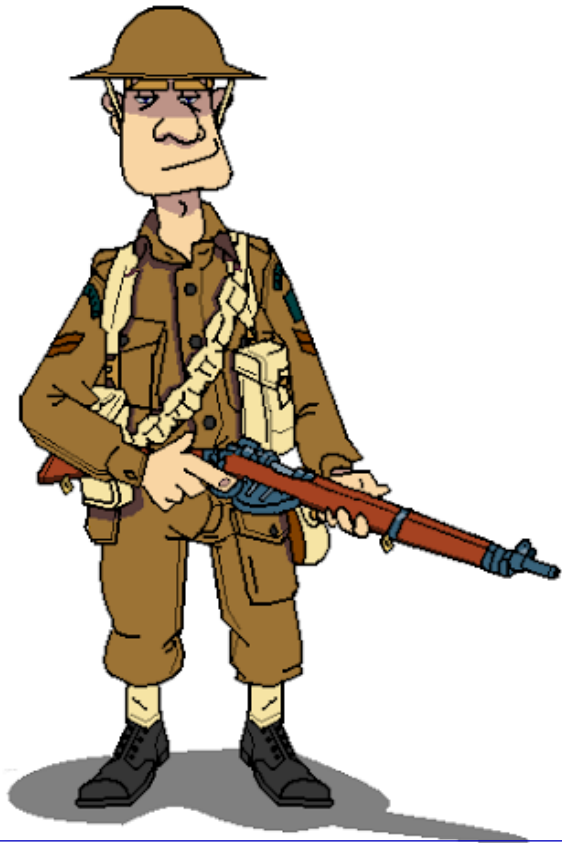
In popular culture

The film *Joy Division* (2006) portrays a member of the BFC, Sergeant Harry Stone, among the German troops and refugees fleeing the Red Army advance into Germany. In the film it is the aggressive Stone who appears to be the only convinced Nazi remaining among the Hitler Youth with whom he is grouped. He is seen attempting to recruit British POWs before the column is attacked by Soviet aircraft.

Jack Higgins' novel *The Eagle Has Landed* portrays a BFC officer named Harvey Preston, who is patterned on Douglas Berneville-Claye. He is attached to the *Fallschirmjäger* unit which attempts to kidnap Winston Churchill. A convinced Nazi and petty criminal, Preston is viewed with disgust by all members of the German unit.

On TV, the British Free Corps was a subject for "The Hide", the final episode of series 6 of the British TV series *Foyle's War*, in which a British POW who had joined the BFC was tried for treason in Great Britain once he returned home, after surviving the firebombing of Dresden.

Information from Wikipedia and other sources.



Corporal Numbnutz Funnies.

I talked with a homeless man this morning and asked him how he ended up this way. He said, "Up until last week, I still had it all. I had plenty to eat, my clothes were washed and pressed, I had a roof over my head, I had HDTV and Internet, and I went to the gym, the pool, and the library.. I was working on my MBA on-line. I had no bills and no debt. I even had full medical benefits coverage." I felt sorry for him, so I asked, "What happened? Drugs? Alcohol? Divorce?"

Oh no, nothing like that," he said. "'Because of Coronavirus, I was unexpectedly paroled."

A young doctor had moved out to a small community to replace a doctor who was retiring. The older doctor suggested that the young one accompany him on his rounds, so the community could become used to a new doctor.

At the first house a woman complains, "I've been a little sick to my stomach." The older doctor says, "Well, you've probably been overdoing the fresh fruit. Why not cut back on the amount you've been eating and see if that does the trick?"

As they left, the younger man said, "You didn't even examine that woman? How'd you come to the diagnosis so quickly?"

"I didn't have to. You noticed I dropped my stethoscope on the floor in there? When I bent over to pick it up, I noticed a half dozen banana peels in the trash. That was what probably was making her sick."

The younger doctor said "Pretty clever. If you don't mind, I think I'll try that at the next house."

Arriving at the next house, they spent several minutes talking with a younger woman. She said that she just didn't have the energy she once did and said, "I'm feeling terribly run down lately." "You've probably been doing too much for the Church," the younger doctor told her. "Perhaps you should cut back a bit and see if that helps."

As they left, the elder doctor said, "I know that woman well. Your diagnosis is almost certainly correct, she's very active in the church, but how did you arrive at it?"

"I did what you did at the last house. I dropped my stethoscope and when I bent down to retrieve it, I noticed the vicar under the bed."

AN OBITUARY

Printed in The Times



Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,
 -by his parents, Truth and Trust,
 -by his wife, Discretion,
 -by his daughter, Responsibility,
 -and by his son, Reason.

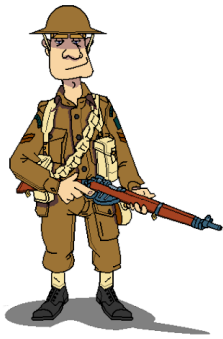
He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers;
 - I Know My Rights
 - I Want It Now
 - Someone Else Is To Blame
 - I'm A Victim
 - Pay me for Doing Nothing

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

***Sent in by old mate Lee Rossetti
 seen here doing what he does best.***





A duck hunter was out enjoying a nice morning on the marsh when he decided to take a leak. He walked over to a tree and propped up his gun. Just then a gust of wind blew, the gun fell over, and discharged... shooting him in the genitals.

Several hours later, lying in a hospital bed, he was approached by his doctor. "Well sir, I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that you are going to be OK. The damage was local to your groin. There was very little internal damage, and we were able to remove all the pellets."

"What's the bad news?" asked the hunter.

"The bad news is that there was some pretty extensive pellet damage done to your penis, so I'm going to refer you to my sister."

"Well I guess that isn't too bad," the hunter replied. "Is your sister a plastic surgeon?"

"Not exactly," answered the doctor. "She's a flute player in the Symphony Orchestra and she will teach you where to put your fingers so you don't piss in your eye."

Eat whatever you like because you will still DIE. Don't allow motivational speakers to deceive you.

1. The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54.
2. The inventor of gymnastics died at the age of 57.
3. The world bodybuilding champion died at the age of 41
4. The best footballer in the world Maradona, died at the age of 60.
5. BUT The KFC inventor died at 94.
6. Inventor of Nutella brand died at the age of 88.
7. Imagine, cigarette maker Winston died at the age of 102.
8. The inventor of opium died at the age of 116 in an earthquake.
9. Hennessey inventor died at 98.

How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life?

The rabbit is always jumping up and down but it lives for only 2 years and the turtle that doesn't exercise at all, lives 400 years.

So, take some rest, chill, stay cool, eat, drink and enjoy your life. You will still die. I'm sending my Nike trainers back for a refund.

EDITORIAL

Our ANZAC Day signs sold very well, with some being sent to Victoria and WA. After some initial hiccups with distribution we sold the 100 before ANZAC Day, and could have sold even more if we'd had further stocks. We have presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the sign maker Gawler Arts & Signs for their brilliant work, and we made a decent profit which will go straight into supporting the Battalion, which is what we do. (See Page 11 for follow up)

Statements by the RSL's State President Cheryl Cates were out of line with common belief when she stated ANZAC Day was only for the veterans. WRONG, Mrs Cates! ANZAC Day is for ALL Australians, and even more so for those who never served. ANZAC Day is a day for all Australians to pay homage to the originals who stormed the beaches of Gallipoli, and to thank those who have served ever since. All Australians have the right to attend ANZAC services, regardless of what the RSL hierarchy thinks, and if the State Government can sanction football matches with over 10,000 spectators, and a Festival Fringe with many thousands of patrons cavorting around, drinking and dancing, then they should sanction all ANZAC Day dawn services and commemorative marches where NO ONE dances, but everyone honours those who went before.

ANZAC Day is for every Australian. Always has been. Always will be!

We have much pleasure in announcing Major General Neil Wilson has accepted our offer to continue as Patron of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc for the next 3 years. Neil will now start his second term at the helm of our Association, and we thank him not only for his unselfish support over the past three years, but look forward to his continued guidance and friendship into the next three years. MAJGEN Wilson will continue his term officially as of the AGM in August 2021.

In May 2020 I featured the sad saga of the disappearance of Captain Paul McKay, and the recovery of his body after he died in the US of hyperthermia. Paul served with distinction, first with 10/27 Battalion RSAR and then with the Australian Regular Army in Afghanistan. Paul's name is on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, and will soon be added to a Middle East Conflict Memorial at the Two Wells RSL. Captain McKay's Ceremonial Sword was gifted to the 10th/27th Battalion by the McKay family, and will this year be carried by LTCOL Sam Benveniste, CO of the Battalion and a close friend of Paul McKay's. Watch for it on ANZAC Day.

LEST WE FORGET

That's what I think!

David Laing - Editor



Contact Us

**The Secretary /Editor
David Laing**

**Royal South Australia
Regiment Association Inc.
PO Box 5218 Murray Bridge
South SA 5253**

0407 791 822

davidlaing49@bigpond.com



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Facebook

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

ANZAC Day Signs

As seen in the Editorial, our friends at Gawler Art & Signs not only designed and printed our ANZAC Day signs, but they gave us a generous discount to help support the Battalion. At RIGHT are Cheryl & Martin, owners of Gawler Art & Signs with a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the RSAR Association, presented to them by Committee Member Norm Tregenza, as a thank you for their support and very quick turn-around in getting the signs out there to our members and customers.

Their high quality work is to be commended, and we recommend if you have any sign or printing requirements you can visit them on their website



www.gawlerartandsigns.com.au or drop them an email at signs@gawlerartandsigns.com

At Gawler Art & Signs we specialise in signage for all sorts of businesses.

Established in 1992 we have the experience required for all of your signwriting needs.

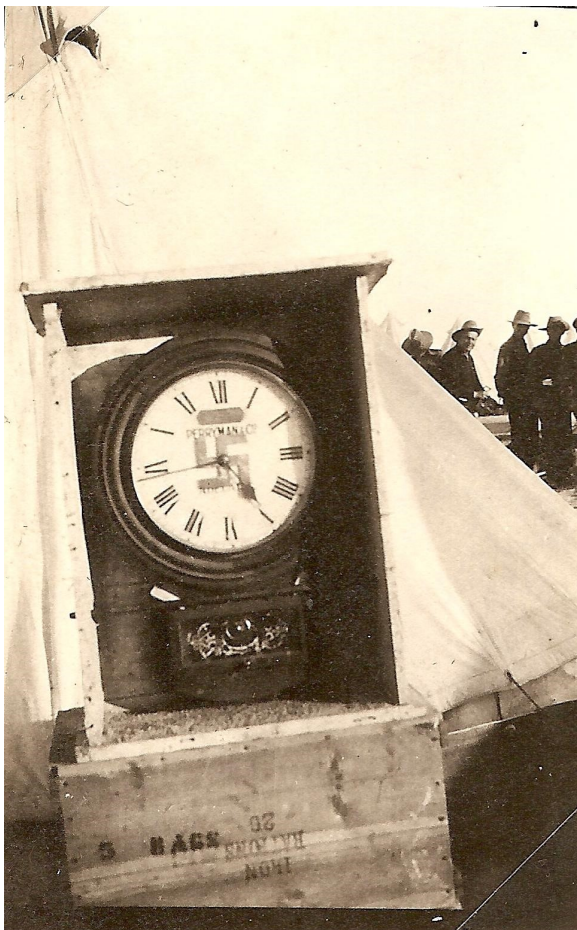
Located in Willaston South Australia, Gawler Art & Signs also services Gawler, the Barossa Valley and surrounding areas

(08) 85224950

The 27th Battalion Clock

A clock by Adelaide watchmakers, Perryman & Co, is protected inside a wooden case. The clock, known colloquially as "Big Ben", was presented by Mr. Harry Heylen, the proprietor of the King William street jewellers, who took a great interest in the defence force, and was quarter-master-sergeant of a militia unit prior to the First World War. In the article 'Adelaide Battalion's Clock' published in 'The Register' of Adelaide dated 13 November 1915, it was reported "When the 27th Battalion was in camp at Mitcham, the men received a present: which has proved of the utmost value to them - an eight-day clock from Messrs. Perryman & Co., of King William street. The timepiece is boldly showing its face to the Turks at Gallipoli, as Staff-Armourer Sgt. H.A. Miller, of the 27th Battalion, relates in a letter sent to Adelaide. He says: 'After withstanding the storms, rain, and sun of the Mitcham Camp, the clock went in the steamer to Port Suez, and later was erected at the camp at the Aerodrome, Heliopolis.

It was again dismantled and taken to the Polygon Camp at Abbassia, whence it was conveyed to Cairo and Alexandria and Lemnos Island. Finally it went with the battalion to Anzac. A mule conveyed it to Taylor's Gully, where it was transferred to another four footed transport, and found a final resting place on 'Chester Ridge.' I have now got the clock hanging from the haft of a bayonet driven well into the ground in the sap lending to our trenches. It is keeping splendid time, in spite of its rough usage.' The fate of the clock was reported in an interview with Lieutenant-Colonel Dollman entitled "The Wanderings of a Clock" in The Advertiser on Thursday 1 February 1917: "Visitors came and gazed in wonder that such a mark of civilised life should have been set up at such a place, and some war correspondents photographed it and published it in an English newspaper and called it the 'Big Ben of the Peninsula.'...



Then came the evacuation, and the clock was taken off too, although our movements were hurried and sudden. In the dead of night, with the constant fire of the enemy and of our own guns, we silently crept to the landing-place, and were taken on barges to where a ship lay waiting for us to board. We embarked, and with us our scanty stores, but in one of the cases was our beloved Big Ben, and by the time the dawn light flushed the Eastern sky the shores of Gallipoli lay far behind and those of Lemnos hove in sight...

The clock next showed its face to the people of La Belle France, this time at the village of Morbecque, when we were for the first time accommodated in billets, and the clock erected by the side of a cobblestone roadway. Next at Armentieres, where the horse and transport lines were established in rear of our trenches, and later in Belgium, the clock showed its face: but when the first instruction came for us to prepare to take part in the battle of the Somme our dear old

friend was tenderly packed away, and dispatched with surplus regimental stores to Etaples, while the battalion went on its way to cover itself with glory.

I look back upon the clock's association with the battalion with sincere appreciation, and every time I read the truth in its face I recalled the face of the man who had been good enough to present it. He is an old and valued friend, a comrade of my earlier military days, and the fine spirit of patriotism he has shown for many years stumps him as an ardent Imperialist and a citizen of high repute."

THE WANDERINGS OF A CLOCK.

"When the 27th Battalion Infantry, of the Australian Imperial Force, was formed for service it was quartered first at Ascot Park and later at Mitcham," said Lieu-tenant-Colonel Dollman in an interview. "During the term of training every effort was made to establish comfort and convenience in the battalion camp lines, and generous assistance was given by various business people of Adelaide. The battalion was formed in March, 1915, and at the end of that month Mr. H. Heylen, in conversation with the commanding officer of the battalion, expressed his willingness to assist in any way possible, and upon re-presentation being made to him he presented a battalion clock, which was erected above a specially designed notice-board and served as the official timepiece, not only for the battalion, but for the whole of the camp. Following the advice, of Mr. Heylen, a weatherproof case was made, in which the clock stood, and this served as a packing case for the clock in its subsequent travels. The battalion embarked on May 31, 1915, and among the most treasured of our regimental stores was Mr. Heylen's gift.

"The clock next came to light in Egypt and in July was erected in front of headquarters at the Aerodrome camp, Heliopolis. The air and sands of Egypt seemed to suit it, for it calmly looked out over the plains where thousands of years before had stood the ancient city of On or the City of the Sun. Here it was that Joseph served Pharaoh, and near here Moses and the children of Israel toiled under the mastery of the Egyptians. Our next move was to Abassia, on the other side of Heliopolis, and from this camp, looking towards the setting sun, could be seen the great Pyramids. The clock ticked stolidly on, and brigade and battalion time was regulated by it, while natives stared and watched the



A MUCH TRAVELLED CLOCK.

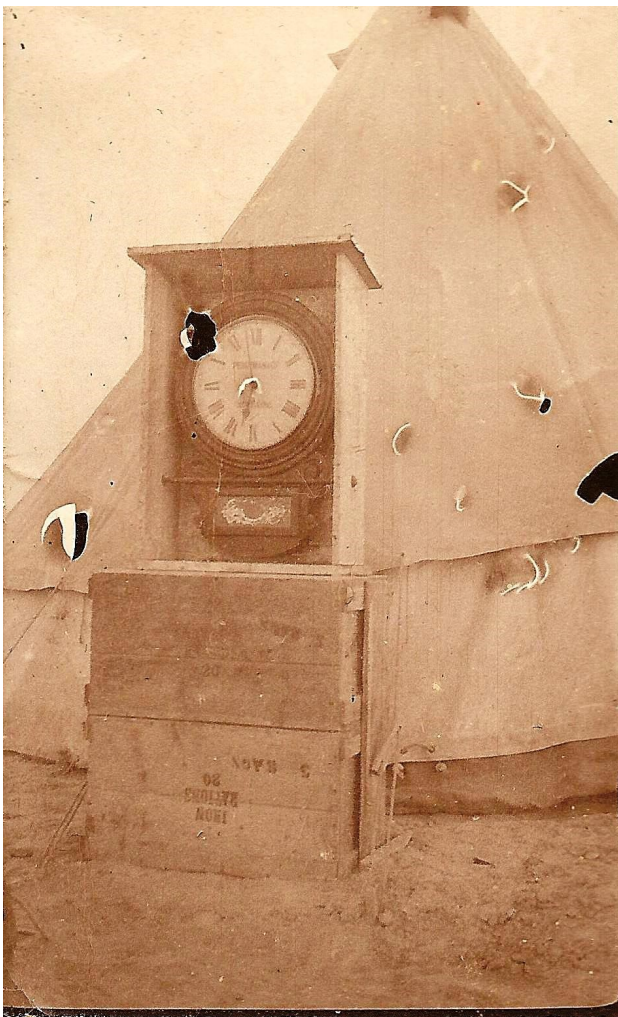


The clock here reproduced was presented to the 27th Battalion while they were in camp at Mitcham. It accompanied the troops to Egypt, and afterwards saw service in the trenches on Gallipoli, where this photograph was taken. It is now back in Egypt.

sands of years before had stood the ancient city of On or the City of the Sun. Here it was that Joseph served Pharaoh, and near here Moses and the children of Israel toiled under the mastery of the Egyptians. Our next move was to Abassia, on the other side of Heliopolis, and from this camp, looking towards the setting sun, could be seen the great Pyramids. The clock ticked stolidly on, and brigade and battalion time was regulated by it, while natives stared and watched the

hands creep round. When embarkation orders were received and on September 4 the 7th Brigade began its voyage to Gallipoli instructions were given that all care was, to be taken that only essential equipment was carried.

I hesitated but one moment before deciding that the clock was an essential, and it went on board the troopship bound for active service and, with other stores, reached the inhospitable shores of Turkey and its horrors and attendant hardships. Twenty four hours after landing the clock had reached the firing line and was set up in front of the cave which formed the quartermasters store in Chailak Dere. The trenches were on the hilltop known as Cheshire Ridge, and here vigorous and effective work soon made our position a strong one. A terrace was cut on the rear slope of the hill and regimental headquarters were established, and the clock was once more erected, this time facing the Ægean Sea, whereon floated specimens of Britain's naval might. Many a shell screamed overhead, many a shell burst nearby, but the clock ticked on and was said to be the only clock in the British lines.



Regimental Clock

Visitors came and gazed in wonder that such a mark of civilised life should have been set up at such a place, and some war correspondents photographed it and published it in an English newspaper and called it the Big Ben of the Peninsula.

"About two months later it was erected at Russell's Top, behind the famous Walkers Ridge, and from here it gazed with unseeing eyes at the arrival and departure of Lord Kitchener on his inspectorial visit. Here, too, it felt the chill and severity of its first snowstorm; but it ticked on as bravely as it did on the burning sands of Egypt. Then came the evacuation, and the clock was taken off too, although our movements were hurried and sudden. In the dead of night, with the constant fire of the enemy and of our own guns, we silently crept to the landing-place, and were taken on barges to where a ship lay waiting for us to board. We embarked, and with us our scanty stores, but in one of the cases was our beloved Big Ben, and by the time the dawn light flushed the Eastern sky the shores of Gallipoli lay far behind and those of Lemnos hove in sight. We landed at Mudros, and later established a comfortable camp overlooking the entrance to the harbor, where we spent our Christmas and New Year's days. The weather for the most part was wet and sloppy; but the old clock in stern, relentless fashion ticked off the minutes and hours in truly mili-



tary precision.

"Early in 1916 we again boarded a troop ship, and sailed for, Egypt once more. We proceeded by train, to Tel-el-Kebir, the famous battleground of 1882, where the earthworks of Arabi Pasha are still in good repair. Here we recommenced active training, and the clock took up its task once more. Soon the Turkish menace on the Suez Canal necessitated the concentration of troops in the threatened area, and we packed up and moved to Ismailia, where we crossed the Canal on pontoon bridges, and took up new ground on the Sinai Peninsula. The clock was again erected, and by this time Quarter master-Sergeant Miller had made a Swastika cut from a piece of enemy shell case, on which were inscribed the names of the various halting places, and this was placed on the clock face. We next re-crossed the Canal, and went into Moas-car for a while, from which place we entrained for Alexandria, enroute to France. The clock next showed its face to the people of La Belle France, this time at the village of Morbecque, when we were for the first time accommodated in

billets, and the clock erected by the side of a cobblestone roadway.

Next at Armentieres, where the horse and transport lines were established in rear of our trenches, and later in Belgium, the clock showed its face: but when the first instruction came for us to prepare to take part in the battle of the Somme our dear old friend was tenderly packed away, and dispatched with surplus regimental stores to Etaples, while the battalion went on its way to cover itself with glory. I look back upon the clock's association with the battalion with sincere appreciation, and every time I read the truth in its face.

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Article researched and sent in by Des Hawkins—RSAR Association Historian

RSARA MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Due to increasing costs of manufacturing in almost everything we purchase, we are unable to retain the costs of our Association Merchandise without a very small price rise. We HAVE managed to keep the costs of our Annual Fees down to \$20, the same as it was when the Association was first formed. Please see below for current prices.



Association Lapel Badge \$15 plus \$4 postage
Made in Adelaide and Sydney

Association Name Plate \$25 plus \$4 postage
Made in Adelaide and Sydney

Regimental Tie \$25 plus \$4 postage
Designed in Adelaide and made over there.

(When ordering Name Badge, please ensure the name you request is the name you want on the badge. Names in CAPITALS.)

RSARA Stubby Holders \$6 plus \$4 postage.

OR 6 for \$30 plus \$8 postage

Neoprene with sewn base. Great quality
Designed and made in Adelaide SA



Association Polo Top \$45 plus \$10 postage

100% BIZCOOL Micro Polyester
Designed and embroidered in SA
(Mannequin not included)

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Dear David,

Thank you sincerely for the newsletter that you create each month. It appears to me to be a production that is way above the ordinary fellows punching weight in quality.

But with the April edition I could not help but give you a reply when I read your final comments about the dangers to altering Anzac Day.

The anger that I felt at the loss of the 2020 march could possibly be rationalized away with the unknown perceived dangers of the moment. However the lingering paranoia is beyond belief for me. Unfortunately it is a lonely place when surrounded by the incessant portrayal by the media of an apocalyptic threat.

It seems to me that we have become more afraid of what is less likely to kill us.

So, what a comfort to read your comments that indicate to me that I am not alone in my views. A great comfort indeed to read that someone else sees the Emperors clothes are missing.

Some chaps, when they age, might feel that they are entering the "twilight zone" of grumpiness. Well, that is what I have experienced in a light way. This can be especially a shock for a chap like me, who has for over many decades, by the grace of God, enjoyed both patience and joyfulness. It can be a lonely place when you disagree with the paranoia that has been displayed by so many, but you have encouraged me to continue to believe that all opinions matter.

best regards

Chris Wheeler

To the President RSAR Association Rod Beames

Dear Rod

I wish to comment and make my thoughts known about the recent ANZAC signs project.

This idea was first suggested by Committee Member Norm Tregenza back in 2020, but unfortunately we left our run too late and didn't get the idea off the ground at that time.

Since then, with the concurrence of the rest of the committee, Norm has not only visited the sign makers on numerous occasions, but has succeeded in haggling the price down to an acceptable rate, picked up and paid for the signs initially himself, and transported them from his home north of Gawler to Keswick Barracks to sell and hand over at least 50 of the signs.

Since then he has walked (virtually door to door) the main street of Gawler and succeeded in selling a further 20 signs himself, including to numerous hotels and even the Gawler Police Station. (There may be a pattern there!)

I wish to commend Norms actions and support to you, in the unselfish and energetic way he has gone about supporting the Association which supports the Battalion.

Regards

David Laing

David,

I too, have been very impressed with the zeal and sincerity Norm has given to this project. If I could, I would promote him to Sergeant. However, as that is not possible, I would like to record my appreciation for **a job well done**, in Sitrep. Norm has always been very supportive of me and the Association. I have asked him to help me on many occasions like chauffeuring visiting troops to the Battalion and other tasks. He never fails me.

On a personal note, he has supported me with my health issues and with the loss of my wife. I am proud to have him as a friend.

His current commitment to the local Anzac Dawn Service awareness banners is another worthy example.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Regards,

Rod Beames

Hi David

Thanks for the Lest We Forget signs. I have placed one at the Hawker War Memorial and the other in my front yard at Quorn. They have both attracted some positive comments.

Regards

Ian Carpenter See Pics page 1.

Life Members			Members A-S			Honorary Members	
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name
Acton	Chris		Abraham	Michael	SM	Read WO1	Ben
Ayles	Jeff		Attenborough	Geoff		Benveniste LTCOL	Sam
Beckett	David	SM	Bampton	Michael	SM	Wilson MAJGEN	Neil
Benveniste	Sam	SM	Bennett	Christian	SM		
Blackmore	Bill		Blondell	Mark	SM	Honorary Member for Life	
Boscence	Bob		Brown	Bruce		Beames	Rodney
Bourne	Colin	SM	Burnard	Saxon	SM		
Brookes	Philip		Burton	Ray		Associate Life Members	
Burnard	Trent	SM	Carlisle	Lesley-Ann	SM ∑	Last Name	First Name
Burns	Wayne		Cooke	Nat		Elliott	Julie
Carnachan	Ian		Cram	Kevin	∑	Field	Shirley
Carpenter	Ian		Demosani	Tony		Laing	June
Cotton	Bob		Dew	Trevor		Phillips	Heather
Dart	John		Domanski	Glenn		Sanderson	Lorraine
Davey	Trevor		Dunn	Bob			
Elliott	Graham		Dunn	Peter			
Gaborit	Lyndon		Ewens	Mimi	SM		
Harris	Lachlan		Faquiri	Reshad	SM		
Hawking	Don		Faunt	Joshua	SM	Associate Members	
Haynes	Malcolm	SM	Foy	Erin	SM	Last Name	First Name
Higgins	Jonathon	SM	Gatley	Graham	▲	Carnachan	Dom ∑
Higgins	Jonathon		Gibson	Lindsay		Collins	Peter
Hogan	Mark		Gill	Graham		Dunn	Trish
Hook	Alan		Goodwin	Graham	SM	Hudson	Margaret
Hope	David		Gordon	Frank		Johnson	Margaret
Horseman	Ian		Harrington	Malcolm		Parsonage	Yvonne
Jackson	Aaron	SM	Harrison	John		Toy	Jill
James	Grant	SM	Harrison	Keith		Trogenza	Lyn
Johnson	Barry		Harrison	Nigel		Winger	Kathleen
Klopf	Alex		Hawkins	Des			
Laing	David		Hill	Max			
Lakin	Bruce		Hudson	Rick		Honourary Member for Life	
Marlin	Robin	SM	Humphrys	Jesse	SM ∑	Honorary Members	
Meredith	Michael	SM	Jones	Brett		Life Members	
Moore	Terry		Koop	Joshua	SM	Serving Life Members	
Moore	Thomas	SM	Loveder	Peter		Members	
Paul	John		Matchett	William		Serving Members	
Pollard	Barry		McCulloch	Don		Associate Life Members	
Salamon	Piotr		McIver	Bill		Associate Members	
Sanderson	Max		Mitchell	Barry			
Standing	Michael		Moroney	Frank			
Stewart	Robin		Mulroney	Dennis		Prepaid Members	
Stewien	Peter		Normadale	Zachary	SM		∑ 2021/22
Vella	Joe		Oakley	Andrew			▲ 2022/23
Waters	Ian		O'Daly	Ryan	SM		
Westover	Rhys		Orrock	Alan			
Wilson	Graham		Parslow	Howard	∑		
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg		Parsonage	James			
			Pascoe	Michael			
Members T - Z			Payne	Bob			
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Pexton	Timothy	SM		
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Thomas	David		Portakiewicz	Anthony	SM ∑		
Thomson	Jim		Portakiewicz	David	SM ∑		
Trogenza	Norm		Preece	Brian			
Trezise	George	SM	Rado	Steven			
Tsoulakis	Christos	SM	Ramm	Hank			
Tucker	Belinda	SM	Ranger	Denis			
Weepers	Nicole	SM	Robertson	James			
Wheeler	Chris		Rossetti	Lee			
			Sage	Andrew			
			Sanders	Ashley	SM ∑		
			Schuh	Simon	SM		
			Scott	Rhys	SM		
			Skapin	Corey	SM		
			Smith	Ryan	SM		
			Sniedze	Julie	SM		