

# "Sitrep, Over!"

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Patron Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing 0407 791 822



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2023**

## The Battle of Kapyong



General J. Van Fleet, General Officer Commanding, US Eighth Army, inspects members of the 3 RAR while bestowing the Presidential citation in recognition of the unit's action at Kapyong. 083857

### The Battle of Kapyong 23/25 April 1951

Compiled by COL Steve Larkins

Kapyong was the largest and most strategically significant action in which Australian troops were engaged in the Korean conflict, as part of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade supported by a US Army Heavy Tank Battalion.

China entered the war when the United Nations forces had pushed the North Koreans back after the amphibious landing at Inchon outflanked the North Korean forces in the South. China poured ten of thousands of troops into the campaign. The Commonwealth Brigade was tasked to block the advance of the Chinese south along a traditional invasion route towards Seoul through the Kapyong Valley.

On 22 April, the Chinese launched their spring offensive, routing the

### Quick Picks

**AFTER MY  
GIRLFRIEND TURNED  
VEGAN, IT WAS LIKE  
I'D NEVER SEEN  
HERBIVORE**

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# The Battle of Kapyong

South Korean 6th Division and driving them back down the Kapyong Valley.

At this time 3RAR had been 'off-line' and enjoying the hospitality of a Turkish Battalion deployed as part of the UN Forces. The occasion marked the lead up to ANZAC Day commemorating a time when the Australians and Turks had been ranged against one another at Gallipoli 35 years previously in 1915. Although enemies, they had gained a great respect for one another and that was mirrored on this occasion. There was however, to be no ANZAC Day ceremony for 3RAR. They were warned for action and set off poste haste.

Elements of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade moved forward of the town of Kapyong. The 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), and 3RAR dug in on the high ground on either side of a seven-kilometre wide valley. The following day, the Chinese were engaged by the Australians and Canadians as well as Company A of the 72nd US Heavy Tank Battalion (equipped with Sherman tanks) and the supporting New Zealand Artillery. Two nights and days of close combat followed and on the evening of 24 April the Australians were forced to withdraw from their positions and, with the support of the Canadians and New Zealand artillery, fought their way down a ridge, rejoining the majority of the brigade in the Kapyong valley. Casualties had to this point in time been evacuated by the Battalion Medical Officer, Captain Don Beard, on the backs of tanks brought forward to the 3RAR position.



The action is summed up in the US Presidential citation awarded to 3RAR, 1PPCLI and Company A 72nd Heavy Tank battalion following the battle:

*BATTLE HONOURS – By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9396 (Sec I, WD Bul. 22, 1943) Superseding Executive Order 9075 (Sec III, WD Bul. 16, 1942) and pursuant to authority in AR 260-15, the following units are cited as public evidence of deserved honour and distinction.*

**3RD BATTALION, ROYAL  
AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT**

**2ND BATTALION, PRINCESS  
PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT  
INFANTRY COMPANY A**



**72ND HEAVY TANK BATTALION (UNITED STATES)**

*are cited for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of combat duties in action against the armed enemy near Kapyong, Korea, on the 24 and 25 April 1951. The enemy had broken through the main line of resistance and penetrated to the area north of Kapyong. The units listed above were deployed to stem the assault.*

*The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, moved to the right flank of the sector and took up defensive positions north of the Pukham River.*



# The Battle of Kapyong

*The 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, defended in the vicinity of Hill 677 on the left flank.*

*Company A, 72nd Heavy Tank Battalion, supported all units to the full extent of its capacity and, in addition, kept the main roads open and assisted in evacuating the wounded.*

*Troops from a retreating division passed through the sector which enabled enemy troops to infiltrate with the withdrawing forces. The enemy attacked savagely under the clangor of bugles and trumpets. The forward elements were completely surrounded going through the first day and into the second. Again and again the enemy threw waves of troops at the gallant defenders, and many times succeeded in penetrating the outer defences, but each time the courageous, indomitable, and determined soldiers repulsed the fanatical attacks. Ammunition ran low and there was no time for food. Critical supplies were dropped by air to the encircled troops, and they stood their ground in resolute defiance of the enemy. With serene and indefatigable persistence, the gallant soldiers held their defensive positions and took heavy tolls of the enemy. In some instances when the enemy penetrated the defences, the commanders directed friendly artillery fire on their own positions in repelling the thrusts. Toward the close of 25 April, the enemy breakthrough had been stopped. The seriousness of the break-through on the central front had been changed from defeat to victory by the gallant stand of these heroic and courageous soldiers.*

*The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment; 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry; and Company A, 72nd Heavy Tank Battalion, displayed such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing their missions under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set them apart and above other units participating in the campaign, and by their achievements they brought distinguished credit on themselves, their homelands, and all freedom-loving nations.*

The result of the action was that the Chinese advance was halted and Seoul was saved from another attack. The men of 3RAR sustained heavy casualties, with 32 killed, 53 wounded, and three taken prisoner.

Following the battle, the 27th Brigade was withdrawn from Korea. 3RAR, however, remained and was taken on strength of the 28th British Commonwealth Brigade, part of the newly formed 1st Commonwealth Division. 3RAR's war was a long way from over.

Compiled by Steve Larkins 2016

(Steve was a Platoon Commander in 3RAR, when acquisition of a detailed knowledge of the Battle of Kapyong was drilled into newly arrived junior officers)



Captain Reg Saunders shakes hands with a South Korean soldier in April 1951.

THE AUSTRALIAN  
WAR MEMORIAL

# EDITORIAL

I've bumped this page up the ranks so I can talk about what's coming up in this issue. On Pages 5 & 6 we have pics of various ANZAC Day gatherings, sent in by the members. Sadly, some of the pics I received weren't of a quality good enough to publish. Sorry to those who were left out.

Every year on 25th April we rise before dawn and commemorate those who have paid the supreme sacrifice so that we may live our lives free of tyranny and oppression, but there is a day just as important on our democratic calendar, and that day is 24th April, which marks the anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong in South Korea in 1951. A United Nations Force made up of Australians, Canadians and Americans fought North Korean and Chinese troops in a vicious battle which claimed 42 UN lives and over 600 communist lives. The Kapyong story is often forgotten in the build up to ANZAC Day, but it is just as important to the men who fought and those who died, and to the end result of stemming the communist flow into South Korea. The story is on Page 1,2 & 3.

The internet is a great way to catch up with old mates and rekindle long-lost friendships, but we sometimes rely too heavily on it to do our leg work for us. I caught up with an old military mate last week who I hadn't seen for about 3 years. Stories were fibbed about again and a few laughs had until he told me a mutual friend had taken his own life about 12 months ago, and no one had been told because those were his wishes. He felt he was no longer loved and that his mates had abandoned him by not phoning or emailing him. He had also abandoned everyone by not reaching out, and the result was very final!

I've said it before and I'll say it again; there's no time like now to pick up the phone and call someone you haven't spoken to for a while, just to make sure they're OK. And if they are OK, no problem, but if they aren't, your call may be the call that saves them. It can't hurt, can it? And while I was writing this I received the sad news that old mate Lee Rossetti had passed away after a short illness. Lee was a good guy and a really genuine bloke. He mentioned in an email to me in 2010 that he was coming down from Broken Hill for a knee operation, and that none of his family were planning to visit him for various reasons. I thought that sad, so drove down from Murray Bridge to visit him in St Andrews Hospital, and we spent a couple of good hours together. I got pinged for speeding going home, and Lee said he'd buy me a beer to compensate. Still waiting mate!

Our Membership now stands at 171, with 53 still serving, and 7 Serving Members taking up RSARA Committee positions, which is a great result, BUT, we need more members to survive. Do you have a mate who served but isn't a member? Print out an Application Form and give it to them, and they can enjoy our camaraderie too!

*David Laing*

0407 791 822



## Contact Us

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Regiment Association Inc.  
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South SA 5253  
0407 791 822



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com)

Visit us on the web at

[www.rsara.asn.au](http://www.rsara.asn.au)

**PAYMENTS FOR SUBS &  
MERCHANDISE**

**Fees and Merchandise can be  
paid by EFT through the follow-  
ing 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  
PO Box 1133  
Kensington Gardens  
SA 5068**

[christianbennett95@gmail.com](mailto:christianbennett95@gmail.com)



# ANZAC Day 2023





# ANZAC Day 2023





# ANZAC Day 2023



The RSAR Association marched with pride on ANZAC Day 2023, with some members not having caught up with each other for a number of years. Member Joe Vella travelled from interstate to march, and new member Kevin Higgins made the trip from Whyalla to be with comrades.

It was great to see members wearing not only their medals but those of their forebears, as this is what ANZAC day is all about. Remembering those who have served and those who continue to serve.

Photos thanks to:

Narelle Harker (Rod Beames daughter)

Lyndon Gaborit

Des Hawkins

ABC TV

More photos on our Facebook page.

**Lest We Forget**



## Colour Sergeant Bournes' Humour



Don't look at me Lad. Watch your front. And do your tunic up! Where do you think you are?

**I HAD THE RIGHT TO  
REMAIN SILENT...**

**BUT BEING IRISH,  
I DIDN'T HAVE THE  
ABILITY !!**

**I tried to re-marry my  
ex-wife.**

**But she figured out I  
was only after my  
money.**

**MY NEIGHBOR JUST YELLED  
AT HER KIDS SO LOUD THAT  
EVEN I BRUSHED MY TEETH  
AND WENT TO BED.**

**I told my suitcases  
that there will be no  
vacation this year.  
Now I'm dealing with  
emotional baggage.**

**I LOVE WAVING AT  
RANDOM PEOPLE,  
BECAUSE YOU KNOW  
FOR THE REST OF THE  
DAY, THEY'RE TRYING  
TO FIGURE OUT WHO  
YOU WERE.**

**My wife is blaming me for  
forgetting her birthday. That's  
ridiculous. I didn't even know  
it was her birthday!!!**

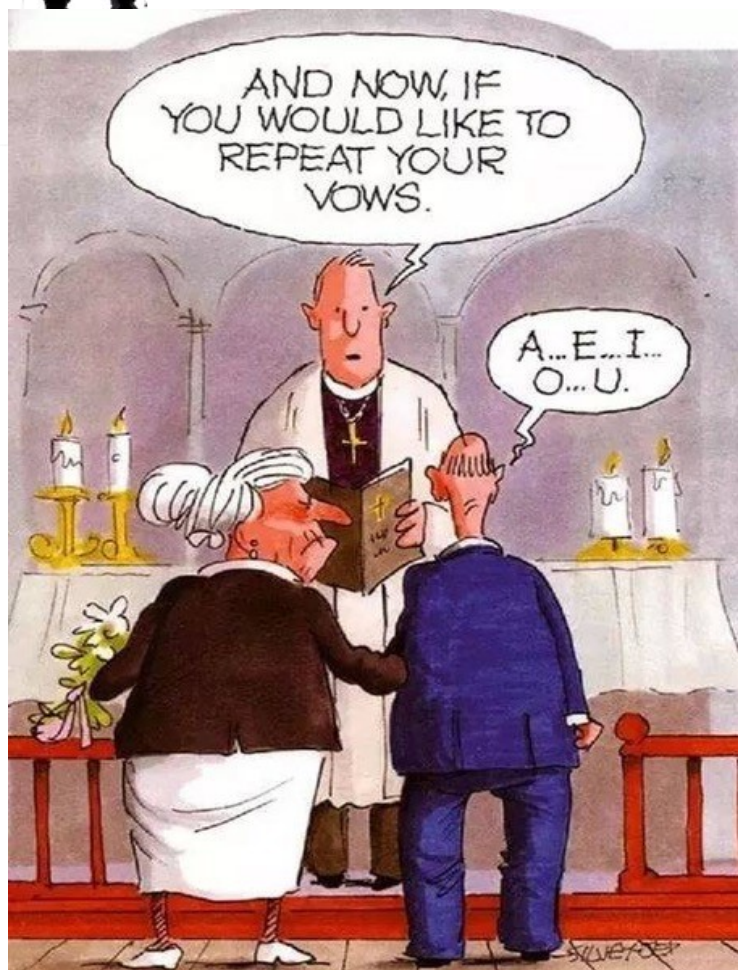




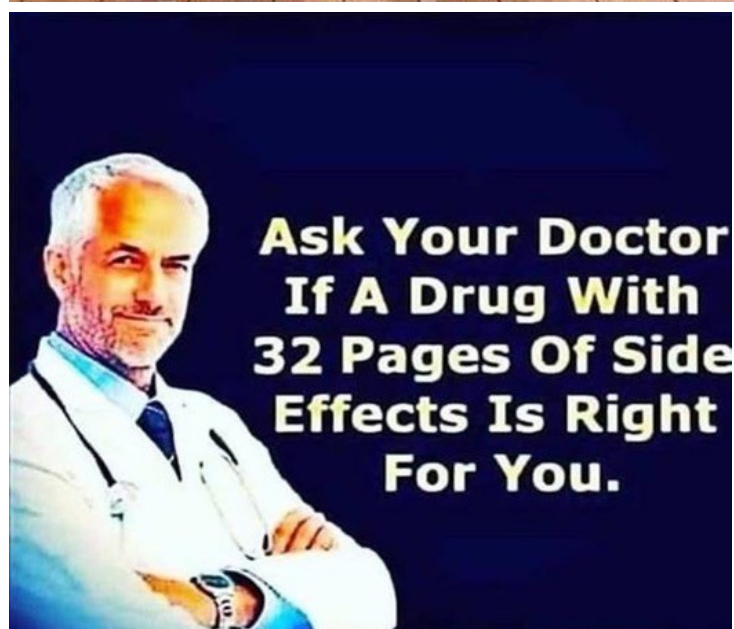
*I asked my North Korean friend how it was there; he said he couldn't complain.*

**Police came round last night and told me my dogs were chasing people on bikes.**

**My dogs don't even have bikes.**



**Guess who kept everyone awake last night?**



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







Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone call and check on me everyday. He is from India and is very concerned about my car warranty.

abpv.app

Nothing spoils a good story like the arrival of an eyewitness.

~ Mark Twain

Bizwaremagic's Funny Quotes

AT MY AGE, ROLLING OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING IS THE EASY PART.

GETTING OFF THE FLOOR IS A WHOLE OTHER STORY.

A Police Officer called his Sergeant on the radio. "I have an interesting case here! An old lady shot her husband dead for walking on the floor she had just mopped!" "Have you arrested her?" Said the Sergeant.

"Not yet. The floor's still wet!"

I can't believe I forgot to go to the gym today. That's 7 years in a row now.

Had a bad mixup at the store today..when the cashier said strip down facing me, apparently she was referring to my credit card.



## How to get noticed and gain Promotion quickly



When you go to the Armoury to draw your preferred weapon, take out an F88 Steyr, a Carl Gustav 84 mm Anti Tank Weapon, and a MAG 58 7.62 mm Machine Gun, complete with tripod. You'll notice the NCOs and Officers (**circled**) all looking very impressed and discussing how they can quickly fast track this very eager soldier for promotion. (From ["Tips and Tricks for the Eager Soldier"](#))



# RSARA MERCHANDISE



A. Regimental Tie \$25

B. Stubby Holders \$6 or 6 for \$30

C. RSARA Nameplate \$25

D. RSARA Lapel Badge \$15

E. Laser-engraved timber shield w/-  
brass look plaque \$45

Allow \$10 postage for clothing & shield, everything else  
\$2 per item

**POLO TOP  
ONLY \$45**

Place your orders by contacting the Secretary on [davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com). You will be advised of the total cost and postage at that time.  
Please don't order through the President or Treasurer. They know nothing!



# 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



## RSAR Association Inc 2023 Annual General Meeting



All Members, wives & partners are invited to attend the AGM and mix with friends whilst voting on changes to the Constitution.

Please arrive by NLT 1100 hrs to order and pay for your meals, to be served at the conclusion of the AGM at 12 noon.

### A CALL FROM THE ASSOCIATION



This is the MAIN event for the year so it is imperative for all members to attend and vote.

Dress Neat, Casual.

Please join us after the AGM for a couple of drinks and a chat. Get to know the other members.

**SUNDAY 6th August 1100 hrs Avoca Hotel, South Rd Clarence Gardens**  
**Reservations Required for Seating & Catering Purposes NLT 30 July to**  
**[davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com) or 0407 791822**



# PADRES PONDERINGS

By Chaplain Paul Ghanem OFM

Self reflection, so long as it does not morph into self absorption, can be a good thing. What follows is a reflection on the role and purpose of chaplaincy.

I believe that chaplaincy is an ADF capability. At its' inception it was a Christian capability as evidenced by the fact that Army Chaplains did not hold rank. They existed for their 'brand' whom they were engaged to serve. While this suited the individual needs of defence members the model was never sustainable because it makes no sense to offer care to one person who is "your" brand and not the person marching by their side who belongs to "another" brand.

Christians believe we are one and equal in the sight of God and so, in the wake of WWII, Chaplaincy evolved into a faith based capability. This emerged from the realisation that care for your neighbour, in its purest form, can know no boundaries.

In the last few years I can see yet another shift. With few and fewer members professing any faith allegiance that concept has grown into what I would now call a spiritual or pastoral care capability. This shift, I believe, is a good thing.

Chaplaincy has matured and shown that it can march in time with a modern army. On the surface of it very little has changed in the way we deliver this capability (with compassion, hope and in support of the Chain of Command) but much has changed in the way chaplaincy views itself. We no longer set boundaries around what we can do or who we can support and we acknowledge that all people have an intrinsic sense of their own spirituality.

Marketing gurus stress the value of brand recognition. While having an identifiable brand can be good for sales, not having a chaplaincy brand is immeasurably better for service.

## *The Padre*

... any day, any time AND any brand

**0408 163 257**





# Dedication of WW1 Gun

Over the past few years members of the Army Museum (AMOSa) have put in many hours restoring the captured World War 1 artillery gun to its former glory.

It was unveiled and dedicated by the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of SA and Representative Colonel of the Royal South Australia Regiment on Saturday 15th April at a ceremony at 10/27 Bn RSAR HQ at Keswick. The ceremony was performed in front of a small gathering of Army personnel and RSAR Association members.

The unveiling featured a plaque funded by the Regimental Council and arranged by the RSAR Association Inc.

(At time of publication no other photos were available)



## 77mm fK 16 Field Gun

THIS PLAQUE WAS UNVEILED ON 15 APRIL 2023 BY  
HER EXCELLENCY

THE HONOURABLE FRANCES ADAMSON, AC

GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AND

REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT

TO COMMEMORATE THE 105th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPTURE OF THIS GUN BY  
THE 10th BATTALION AIF, AND TO RECOGNISE THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE MADE  
BY SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA BOTH PAST AND PRESENT

# RSAR Association Financial Members

Life Members		Members	A - P	Members	P - Z
Acton	Chris	Abel	Colin	Portakiewicz	Anthony
Beckett	David	Abraham	Michael	Portakiewicz	David
Benveniste	Sam	Attenborough	Geoff	Powell	Gary
Blackmore	Bill	Bampton	Michael	Preece	Brian
Boscence	Bob	Beames	Paul	Rado	Steven
Brookes	Phil	Bennett	Christian	Ramm	Hank
Burnard	Trent	Blondell	Mark	Ranger	Denis
Burns	Wayne	Brown	Bruce	Robertson	James
Carnachan	Ian	Burnard	Saxon	Sanders	Ashley
Carpenter	Ian	Burton	Ray	Schuh	Simon
Cotton	Bob	Buttars	Erik	Scott	Rhys
Dart	John	Carlisle	Lesley-Anne	Skapin	Corey
Davey	Trevor	Chamberlain	David	Smith	Ryan
Elliott	Graham	Cooke	Nat	Sniedze	Julie
Gaborit	Lyndon	Cram	Kevin	Tasker	David
Goodwin	Graham	Demosani	Tony	Tattersall	Geoff
Harris	Lachlan	Dew	Trevor	Thomas	Travis
Hawking	Don	Donald	Thomas	Thomas	David
Haynes	Malcolm	Domanski	Glenn	Thomson	Jim
Higgins	Jonathan	Duncan	Coen	Threlfall	Kev
Hogan	Mark	Dunn	Bob	Tran	Andy
Hook	Alan	Dunn	Peter	Trezise	George
Hope	David	Eva	Keith	Tsoulakis	Christos
Horseman	Ian	Ewens	Mimi	Tucker	Belinda
Hudson	Mike	Faquiri	Reshad	Turner	Garry
Jackson	Aaron	Faunt	Joshua	Vozelj	Blaz
James	Grant	Fortune	Nigel	Weepers	Nicole
Jeffrey	Scott	Foy	Erin	Wheeler	Chris
Johnson	Paul	Gatley	Graham	Williams	Reg
Johnson	Barry	Genovese	John		
Klopf	Alex	Ghanem	Paul	<b>Honorary Members</b>	
Laing	David	Gibson	Lindsay	Benveniste LTCOL	Sam
Lakin	Bruce	Gill	Graham	Wilson MAJGEN	Neil
Marlin	Robin	Gordon	Frank	Hannan WO1	Scott
Meredith	Mike	Groffen	Renee		
Miller	Nick	Harrington	Malcolm	<b>Hon Memb for Life</b>	
Moore	Terry	Harrison	John	Beames	Rodney
Moore	Thomas	Harrison	Keith		
Paul	John	Harrison	Nigel		
Pollard	Barry	Hartshorne	Anthony	<b>Associate Life Members</b>	
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Salamon	Piotr	Higgins	Kevin	Field	Shirley
Sanderson	Max	Hill	Max	Johnson	Sally
Stewart	Robin	Hudson	Rick	Laing	June
Stewien	Peter	Hume	Matthew	Phillips	Heather
Vella	Joe	Humphrys	Jesse	Sanderson	Lorraine
Waters	Ian	Jones	Brett	Tregenza	Lyn
Watters	Matthew	Koop	Joshua		
Westover	Rhys	Lewis	James		
Wilson	Graham	Loveder	Peter	<b>Associate Members</b>	
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg	Matchett	William	Abel	Karen
		McCulloch	Don	Brown	Jenni
		McIver	Bill	Carnachan	Dom
		McKenzie	Kain	Dunn	Trish
		Migali	Michael	Hudson	Margaret
		Mitchell	Barry	Johnson	Margaret
		Moore	Peter	Parsonage	Yvonne
		Morony	Frank	Pollard	Kay
		Mulroney	Dennis	Toy	Jill
		Normandale	Zachary	Winger	Kathleen
		Oakley	Andrew		
		O'Daly	Ryan		
		Orrock	Alan		
		Parslow	Howard		
		Parsonage	James		
		Pascoe	Michael		
		Payne	Bob		
		Pexton	Timothy		
		Phillips	Colin Rex		