



"Sitrep, Over!"

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

PATRON: MAJGEN NEIL WILSON AM RFD

EDITOR DAVID LAING

NOVEMBER 2025

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025

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Remembrance Day this year is to be held on Tuesday 11th November, when we pay homage to all Australian and allied soldiers, sailors and aviators who have paid the supreme sacrifice in the name of freedom and democracy. At 11am on 11 November 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare.

The Germans had called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement and accepted the allied terms of unconditional surrender. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years and became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war.



In Australia and other allied countries, including New Zealand, Canada and the United States, 11 November became known as Armistice Day - a day to remember those who died in the First World War. The day continues to be commemorated in our Allied countries.

LEST WE FORGET.



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Or our Facebook page



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EDITORIAL

Some special dates occur every year, and some only once in a while, but 2 specific dates that effect all serving and former serving personnel and their families is ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. I know some folk who have no idea what date we commemorate the sacrifices of our servicemen and women, and even more who treat ANZAC Day as a holiday, and nothing else. I remember as a young bloke watching cars, buses and taxis all coming to a halt, with drivers and passengers alighting and standing by their vehicles as the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month loomed near. They would stand there for the Minutes Silence, paying homage to the fallen, and then resume their business. My teacher in Grade 4 would wear his WW2 medals and we would join the other school kids in the Assembly Yard to listen to our school bugler play the Last Post as the Australian National Flag was raised from Half Mast. Does anyone have similar memories? If so I'd love to hear about them!

I have no idea how many people actually read this newsletter, so I'd like to carry out a short survey, just to see if I'm wasting my time and efforts publishing these articles. If you've just read this, please email me at davidlaing49@bigpond.com and in the Subject Line write "Just Read it!" I would appreciate your time.

As promised last month we are offering selected RSARA Merchandise for sale at vastly discounted prices. These are not overstocked items, but we are giving you the chance to grab some bargains while they last. This offer is for November only, and items can be ordered by contacting the RSAR Association Merchandise Officer CPL Selina Laing by email on lebanonsel@live.com.au Great prices are on Page 9.

As well as advertising for a Secretary, we also have a new position for an Association Welfare Officer. Our Padre handles welfare within the Battalions Serving Members, and to a lesser extent our former serving members, but we need someone to join us and make a difference to those who may be doing the hard yards. See the details on Page 12.

Our Regiment has had many heroes throughout the years, but none as prominent as Arthur Blackburn VC who commanded one of our early Battalions at Gallipoli. His story is on Page 10 & 11. Another hero from our Regiment is Ian Phillips who was awarded the George Medal for an act of bravery in 1970. His story is on Pages 13-15.

We had planned to support the Battalion at the annual Simpson Trophy competition this year, but due to other constraints on the Battalion the event has been postponed until August/September 2026. Our thanks to WO2 Phil Stuart 10/27 Bn CQMS who was providing much of the equipment we needed for a successful event! Cheers Phil!

Private Jack Kleinig from 10/27 Bn has kindly put together an article to enlighten us on the importance of our soldiers deployed on Border Protection duties. You can read the article and see his pics on Page 18 and 19. Jack is now an Association member. Thanks Jack!

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

David

SITUATION VACANT - SECRETARY

Having carried out the role of Secretary since 2009, I have helped the RSAR Association become more visible by instigating this monthly newsletter, starting our own Facebook page, and helping first Frank Morony and then Jesse Humphrys set up our very prominent website www.rsara.asn.au

I have had much pleasure in performing these tasks, but since taking on the role of President from our late mate Rod Beames I have also taken on more duties, such as being a member of the Regimental Council, and I feel it's time to hand the Secretary's reigns to someone else. I will do this job as long as I can, but with age comes certain other challenges, and I feel it's time for someone with similar talents to step up and lend a hand.

I shall continue to edit this newsletter and manage our Facebook page, but I need someone to help "shoulder the load!"

Here's the criteria:

- The Secretary is to liaise with the President and Committee and set dates for Committee meetings, Annual General Meetings, various support exercises and End of Year functions.
- The Secretary is to book venues for AGM's and support exercises, and arrange access for members to enter restricted areas, i.e. RAAF Base Edinburgh, Murray Bridge Training Area etc.
- The Secretary shall arrange and attend all meetings (4 committee meetings and 1 AGM) and take note of all proceedings, prepare and present a true record of all meetings, conduct all correspondence, take all necessary steps to carry out the directions of The Committee and of the assembled members. The Secretary is responsible for the setting of the agenda for each meeting and the recording of Minutes for the same.
- The Secretary shall hand over all books, documentation and other property in his/her possession belonging to The Association auditor when required by The President or on the decision of any meeting of The Association.
- The Secretary shall also be responsible for duties associated with applications for membership as set down in Clauses 13.2, 13.3, 13.4. of the Constitution. (On our website)

It's not a hard job, but it takes more of my time than I can afford, so I am prepared to mentor a new Secretary as long as it takes for them to become accustomed to the duties required.

This position is open to anyone with minor computer skills, a good attitude and an urge to assist this wonderful organisation. The successful applicant will be required to join the Committee of Management after nomination.

Applicants are invited to send an email to davidlaing49@bigpond.com with their current details and skills. If you are a Serving Member of the Battalion, that does NOT preclude you from applying, and all applications will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Give it a go. You'll enjoy it!

Cheers

David Laing

ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

2025 END OF YEAR LUNCH

WARRADALE BARRACKS

Warradale Barracks Sergeants Mess

SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER

1100 to 1500 hrs



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

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

RSVP required for catering purposes to the President David Laing on davidlaing49@bigpond.com or 0407 791 822 NLT Sunday 1st December

Come along and relax for a few hours with mates, and enjoy some traditional camaraderie.

Padre's Ponderings

From Padre Stephen Albrecht – Chaplain 10th/27th Battalion RSAR

With the demands of military life, gratitude might not be the first thing that comes to mind. As the focus is often on discipline, readiness, and resilience, but emerging research within Defence communities are showing that gratitude plays a powerful role in strengthening both individual wellbeing and unit cohesion.

Gratitude is more than simply saying “thank you.” It’s a mindset, a deliberate choice to recognise the good, even in the midst of challenge. For soldiers, chaplains, and leaders alike, gratitude shifts our focus from what’s missing to what’s meaningful. It builds perspective, helping us see beyond the hardships of service life, the long hours, time away from family, or the unpredictability of deployments.

At my Chaplain’s Initial I learnt that in recent studies of psychology and neuroscience they have found that practising gratitude can improve sleep, boost morale, reduce stress, and enhance resilience. Grateful people tend to recover faster from adversity, because they view setbacks through a lens of hope rather than despair. In the Army, this translates to greater mental readiness and emotional stability which are qualities essential for mission success and effective teamwork.

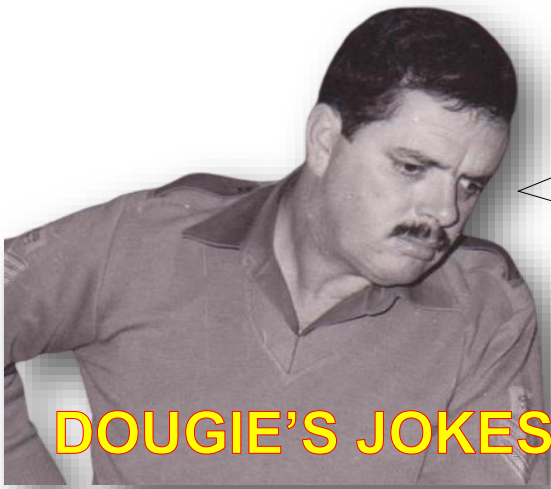
Gratitude also strengthens connection within the unit. When leaders express genuine appreciation for their team’s efforts, it reinforces trust and respect. When soldiers thank one another for small acts of support, shared tasks, a listening ear, a quiet word of encouragement it goes on to foster a culture of care and mutual accountability. Research suggests that over time, these small expressions of gratitude form the foundation of a resilient, values-driven force.

Practising gratitude doesn’t require grand gestures. It can be as simple as taking a moment at the end of the night to reflect on what went well, writing a note of thanks to a mate, or acknowledging a colleague’s contribution during a briefing. Gratitude grows strongest when it’s intentional and consistent.

As members of 10/27, we’re trained to prepare for the worst, but gratitude helps us remember the best, the purpose, the people, and the privilege of serving something greater than ourselves. In a profession where toughness is often measured by endurance, gratitude reminds us of that strength also comes from humility and appreciation.

Gratitude doesn’t make us softer; it makes us stronger. It fuels our resilience, fortifies our relationships, and grounds us in what truly matters... our service, teamwork, and the shared mission we’re called to uphold.

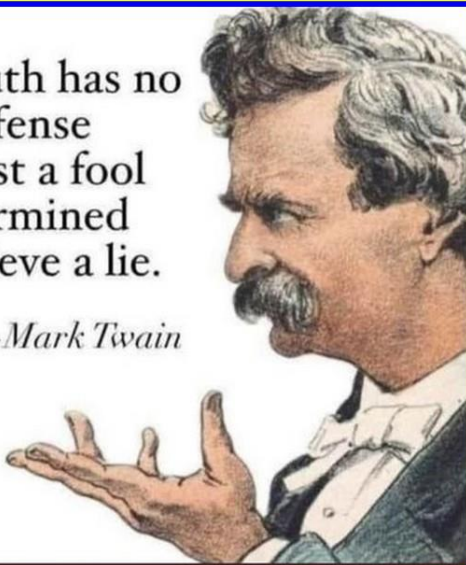
Padre *Stephen Albrecht*



**Have you ever looked
at someone and
thought, the wheel is
turning but the
mouse is dead?**

The truth has no
defense
against a fool
determined
to believe a lie.

-Mark Twain



**Do y'all remember,
before the internet,
that people thought
the cause of stupidity
was the lack of access
to information? Yeah.
It wasn't that.**

**"The forest was shrinking,
but the trees kept voting
for the Axe, for the Axe
was clever and convinced
the Trees that because his
handle was made of wood,
he was one of them."**

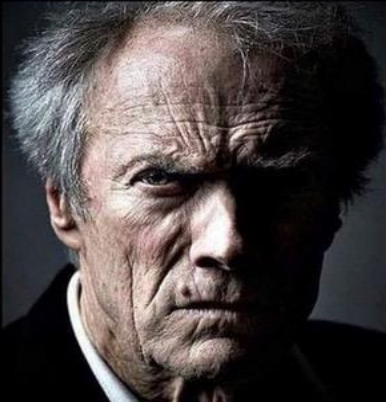
~Turkish proverb

**IF YOU DON'T
HAVE THE TIME
TO DO IT RIGHT...
WHAT MAKES YOU
THINK YOU HAVE
THE TIME TO
DO IT TWICE?**



Remember: when something goes wrong in the circus, they send in the clowns to distract the audience. Well, something has gone very wrong with this circus, and the clowns are everywhere.

I DISAGREE WITH YOU. IT DOESN'T MEAN I DISLIKE YOU OR THAT I'M MAD AT YOU



IT JUST MEANS THAT LIKE YOU, I HAVE MY OWN OPINIONS. I WON'T TREAT YOU DISRESPECTFULLY JUST BECAUSE WE SHARE DIFFERING OPINIONS. GIVE ME THE SAME RESPECT

Common sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.

fb/sun gazing

Nine Important Facts

- Number 9 - Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
- Number 8 - Life is sexually transmitted.
- Number 7 - Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- Number 6 - Men have two emotions: hungry and horny, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
- Number 5 - Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
- Number 4 - Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- Number 3 - All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- Number 2 - In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- Number 1 - Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today might burn your ass tomorrow.

...and as someone recently said:

- Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last that long.



If the person who named
Walkie Talkies named
everything

Stamps - Lickie Stickie
Defibrillators - Hearty Starty
Bumble bees - Fuzzy Buzzy
Pregnancy test - Maybe Baby
Bra - Breastie Nestie
Fork - Stabby Grabby
Socks - Feetie Heatie
Hippo - Floatie Bloatie
Nightmare - Screamy Dreamy

Japanese Wisdom:

If it's not yours, don't take it.
If it's not right, don't do it.
If it's not true, don't say it.
If you don't know, shut up.



If you don't
want the truth,
don't ask me.
If you want
something
Sugarcoated,
go eat a donut.

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I JUST ASKED
MYSELF IF I'M
CRAZY
AND WE ALL
SAID NO

THE SHEEP WILL SPEND ITS
ENTIRE LIFE FEARING THE
WOLF, ONLY TO BE EATEN BY
THE SHEPHERD.

African Proverb

DISCOUNTED MERCHANDISE NOVEMBER ONLY



**Vinyl RSAR stickers
70 mm x 100 mm
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6 for \$5**



**RSARA Stubby Holders
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**RSAR Wine Cooler
Bag
ONLY \$5 each**



Order by contacting CPL Selina Laing on lebanonsel@live.com.au

Offer closes 30th November 2025

Postage applies unless collected from Keswick Barracks

Arthur Blackburn VC. One of our Finest Heroes

(Straight from the 10/27 Bn RSAR Facebook page.) Over the next few months we will examine truly amazing Battalion members. We don't refer to them as former, because once you've served in the Battalion, you'll always be a member.

First up is Brigadier Arthur Seaforth Blackburn Victoria Cross, 1914/15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1939/45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, 1939-45 Medal Australian War Medal, King George Silver Jubilee Medal Coronation medal King George VI Coronation Medal Queen Elizabeth II Volunteer Decoration.

Brigadier Blackburn enlisted in the 10th Battalion AIF as a Private soldier shortly after the outbreak of War in August 1914. He went into camp at Morphettville Racecourse and joined 1 Section, A Company 10th Battalion; "The Adelaide Rifles".



LEFT: Brigadier Arthur Blackburn VC. Born in Woodville S.A. on 25th November 1892

BELOW: The awarded medals of Arthur Blackburn VC from two World Wars.



A Company's Platoons had been formed as the Battalion's Scouts and Arthur Blackburn and his colleagues were to be among the first ashore at the Gallipoli landings. Indeed, Blackburn and another Scout, footballer Phil Robin, were credited by Charles Bean with having reached the farthest inland of any Australian troops, as far as is known.

Later in the campaign, Arthur Blackburn was commissioned as an officer having served there for the duration of the operation. He remained in the 10th Battalion and was a platoon commander when the Battalion arrived on the Western Front. After a brief period near Armentieres in Flanders, the 1st Division moved to the Somme in readiness to support the great offensive that began on 1 July 1916.

The 10th Battalion was committed to its first major action on the Western Front in France on 22nd July 1916, when it formed up to attack at Pozieres. The next day, Arthur Blackburn was ordered to attack a section of German trenches. He led eight separate assaults, constantly being reinforced as casualties mounted, but eventually capturing the enemy positions albeit at great cost. For his resolute leadership and personal bravery at Pozieres, Arthur Blackburn was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The fight for Pozieres where Blackburn won his VC, and nearby Mouquet Farm, cost the Australians 5,000 men killed and 23,000 wounded in five weeks. The 10th Battalion suffered the most of the four battalions of the 3rd Brigade. Their sacrifice was extended among the South Australian Battalions later in the battle, particularly the 27th and the 48th Battalions who captured and held the Windmill feature in succession at its culminating point on and beyond the 4th of August on the high ground north east of the town.

Arthur Blackburn VC. One of our Finest Heroes

Arthur Blackburn was later invalided home to Australia with pleurisy, being discharged medically unfit in April 1917, and so survived the war. He became a founder of Legacy and the RSL in his mid-20s, and a Member of Parliament at age 26.

He subsequently served as SA's State Coroner between the Wars. He re-joined the militia and in 1940, he raised and commanded the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion with distinction in the Middle East. He received the surrender of the Vichy French in Damascus at the end of the Syrian campaign. Along with another Adelaide lawyer / soldier, Cedric Isaacson, of the 2/27th Battalion, Blackburn was appointed to the Control Commission of Syria, conducting an inquiry into the conduct of the Syrian campaign.

Blackburn and his men, on the SS Orcades, the fastest ship in the convoy, were re-directed as Singapore fell. They were to form "Blackforce" to join the futile penny packeting of Australian units through the Indonesian archipelago and in New Britain. Blackburn was promoted Brigadier to lead the force comprising ancillary units of the 7th Division. "Blackforce" was landed on the island of Java. They had no vehicles, weapons or ammunition - they were on other ships in the convoy.

Undaunted, Blackburn assembled his scratch Brigade, equipped them with a shipload of American stores and equipment intended for the Dutch but fortuitously abandoned on the docks. Although promised extraction at a future date, they were effectively abandoned in one of several futile gestures that squandered men and equipment that would have been much more useful later in the defence of Australia against the Japanese. Blackburn conducted an amazing but little known delaying defence of the island, with the Dutch having effectively capitulated around him until, without any hope of extraction, he surrendered the Force and they became prisoners of the Japanese. Most of Blackburn's men were sent to Singapore's infamous Changi prison and later many laboured on the dreaded Burma Railway or were sent to Japan. However Blackburn was sent to Manchuria via Taiwan. Although he survived that ordeal it took its toll on his health. At the end of the War he was repatriated to Adelaide, where people were shocked by his gaunt physical appearance.

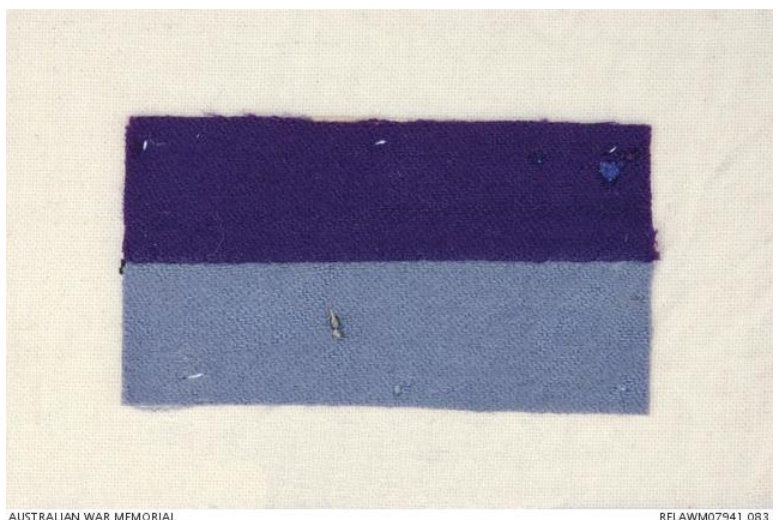
He resumed public life, including a short period as RSL State President, a role he had held nearly 30 years earlier. However, his health deteriorated progressively and he died at Crafers in 1960 aged 68. He is one of four VC winners buried at West Terrace Cemetery. The Department of Veteran's Affairs Adelaide headquarters in SA is named after him.

Arthur Blackburn was a truly great South Australian and Battalion member. Reminding ourselves every day that our Battalion's reputation was built by these heroic members also serves as a reminder to sacrifice, duty and honour. Lest We Forget



LEFT: Brigadier
Arthur Blackburn
VC

RIGHT: The
original Colour
Patch of the 10th
Battalion AIF. The
same colours are
worn today by the
10th/27th Battalion
RSAR



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RELAWM07941.083

SITUATION VACANT - Welfare Officer

Being part of this wonderful Association has made a big difference to my life, and also gifted me many new friends and comrades. Sadly, we aren't always fit and healthy, and the same applies to our partners and spouses from time to time. As you get older (and you will ALL experience it one day) you may have health or "hidden" problems that you can't always cope with, but there's no need to suffer alone. One of the greatest things I learned during my years in the Army was to "always look after your mates!" but once you leave the Army, that obligation doesn't finish. Your mates are your mates forever, and in times of need it's always nice to have someone call to check up how you're going. I know there are a number of you out there who have experienced this situation, and received either phone calls, hospital visits or emails from me! I've been there too, when I had serious cardiac problems just over 12 months ago, and was hospitalised for nearly 2 weeks. My darling wife was a regular visitor (but that's what I pay her for. ☺) but I also had visits to my bedside from serving and former serving members to check on my welfare. And those visits helped bring me back from some very dark times, so I am forever grateful. You know who you are, so I THANK YOU AGAIN!

Now we'd like someone to join our team to act as Association Welfare Officer. The job isn't onerous or time consuming, and may just require a phone call or two per month, and a possible hospital visit once every few months. If you can assist us please consider the criteria below and apply via davidlaing49@bigpond.com

All applications will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Serving Members are highly encouraged to apply:

- Be available to contact members after hours if required.
- Be available for hospital visits if required
- Take recommendations from the committee as to members situations
- Be compassionate
- Be caring
- Be available
- Be a good listener
- Use utmost confidentiality
- Have a sense of humour

If you can fulfil the above requirements, this position is for you. You will benefit from your experiences.

David Laing

ALWAYS LOOK AFTER YOUR MATES. ALWAYS!

SGT Ian Phillips. George Medal



This article was provided by RSAR Association members Chris Acton and Rob Stewart. They were close friends of Ian “Jerry” Phillips, a 43 Bn RSAR soldier who was awarded the George Medal for extraordinary bravery in 1970. The story also mentions Geoff Attenborough and Barry Pollard, who are also RSAR Association members. Here is the story.

George Medal January 1970

Jerry Phillips was a CMF (Citizens Military Forces) soldier who was awarded the George Cross for saving the life of a trainee soldier during Grenade throwing practice.

The Minister of the Army (Andrew Peacock – 1970) announced in Canberra that the medal had been won by Sergeant Ian Carlisle Phillips, 30, a Federal public servant of Meylan Crescent, Dernancourt, and an acting Company Sergeant Major of the 43 Bn Royal South Australia Regiment.(43 RSAR)

The Citation states that his action in placing his own life in jeopardy was an inspiration to the whole battalion and in the highest tradition of the Australian Army.

Sergeant Phillips was conducting a live Grenade throwing practice at the Murray Bridge Army Range on the 23rd January 1970. Captain Geoff Attenborough was the Range Safety Officer.

The CMF were using the M26 Fragmentation Grenade, and there is no room for error as it had a 4 second fuse before exploding.

The Citation reads...”On the command “Throw” the soldier under instruction dropped the grenade, from which the safety pin had been withdrawn, onto the floor of the throwing bay.

The grenade landed on the side of the bay opposite Sergeant Phillips, and behind the soldier who became immobile with shock.



WO2 Phillips is awarded the George Medal by the Governor of SA Major General Sir James Harrison at Government House



SGT Ian Phillips. George Medal



In the 4 seconds before the grenade exploded, Sergeant Phillips grabbed the soldier, who was standing between him and the grenade, and forced the soldier through the opening of the bay onto the ground at the front of the bay, taking cover himself only when the soldier was out of danger.

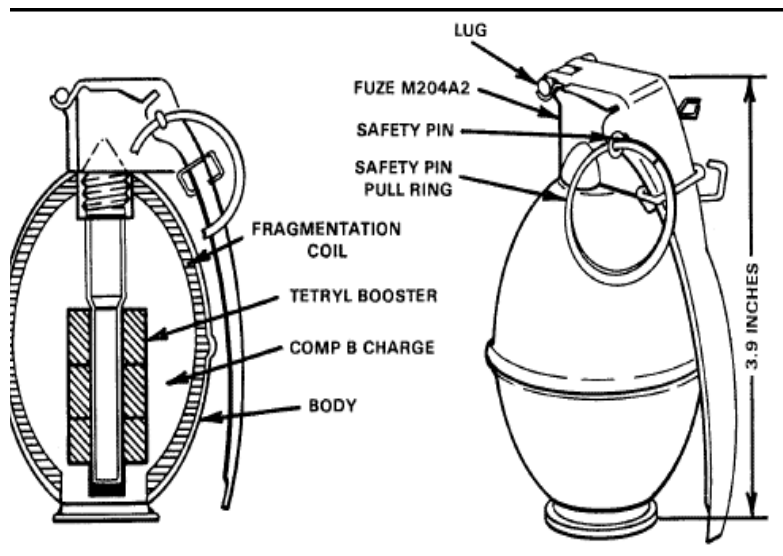
Sergeant Phillips displayed great coolness and initiative undoubtedly saving the soldier from serious injury and probable death."

Stewy Stewart says: When I spoke with Ian recently, he said his recollection of what had happened was this. "Instead of the soldier throwing the grenade overarm, as instructed, he tried to throw it using a "round arm" style, and the grenade actually hit my helmet and dropped onto the floor of the pit.

The Range Safety Officer Captain Geoff Attenborough was shouting and Ian said he just reacted instinctively. Ian recalls that Barry Pollard was also assisting doing the countdown, which was part of the procedure.

An interesting story appeared in the Letters to the Editor in the Advertiser newspaper, which stated "the hapless soldier had dropped the grenade and thrown the pin. We all know that never happened. The George Medal was presented to Ian by the then Governor of South Australia Major General Sir James Harrison at an investiture at Government House on the 4th June 1970.

Thank you to Rob "Stewy" Stewart, Chris Acton and Geoff Attenborough for this story of the bravery of one of our own. Well done Ian "Jerry" Phillips!



SGT Ian Phillips. George Medal



RSAR Association member Geoff Attenborough was the Range Safety Officer for 43 RSAR during the George Medal incident. He recalls the following: "Sgt Phillips was the NCO supervising the recruits as they came one at a time into the throwing bay to throw their two grenades. Next to the throwing bay was the Priming Bay where those yet to throw, waited. Both bays were dug in to the very sandy ground and for safety reasons had quite narrow entrance/exit openings.

Everything was running smoothly. The soldier whose turn it was, came out through the narrow opening and into the throwing bay, and moved along to where Sgt Phillips was waiting. These were recruits who for the first time would be handling and throwing a deadly M26 grenade. Some were a little nervous, as was the next one to throw. I was the Senior Range/Safety Officer located in a raised and protected observation tower directly behind and overlooking the throwing bay, and those in it, and the range to the front of the thrower.

When the thrower was ready, I would give the order "prepare to throw" followed by "throw". The thrower would watch where his grenade landed and after 4 seconds (I believe it was) I would order "down".

On this occasion the very nervous soldier fumbled his throw. But instead of the grenade perhaps dropping to the ground, where an experienced instructor could retrieve it and throw it safely over the parapet, it went up into the underside of the parapet where they were standing, and where it was impossible to retrieve it from. Instead of "down" I shouted "out", "out", "get out".

I continued watching as Sgt Phillips was trying to hustle the hopelessly confused thrower out of the throwing bay, before I had to get down. The grenade exploded and threw up an enormous amount of red dirt. I came down from my tower, expecting to see what carnage had occurred. Instead, as the dust was beginning to settle all I could hear was coughing and spluttering from those in the waiting bay, and to my immense relief I saw Sgt Phillips and his hapless thrower without an obvious scratch on themselves.

Sgt Phillips, instead of thinking only of himself, had made sure that the soldier that he was responsible for was out before he was."



The Willys Jeep



Jeeps were real work horses in World War II and they turned up in the most unusual places.

Because it was just about impossible to build roads through the delta flats of Borneo, someone came up with the bright idea of using the disused railway lines that had run from Weston to Beaufort before the war, by equipping Jeeps with railway wheels.

There were no engines or rolling stock in working order, as the Montener Ktjel bridge between Beaufort and Papar had been bombed, according to Ron Boyden who was then serving with the 10th Battery 2/3rd Anti-Tank Regiment in Borneo.

"The bridge spanned the Padas River near Beaufort and using a Beaufighter and two bombs, our intrepid pilot took out the bridge and then proceeded to damage the rolling stock with his machine guns," Ron Boyden recalled.

"One of the bombs just missed but the other hit one end of the bridge and rolled to the middle before exploding and bringing down the whole structure," he said. "Obviously the bomb had a slightly delayed fuse."

"Actually most of the Japs had retired to the coastal mountains a few miles inland from us by this time. To overcome the loss of the bridge the engineers put the strong flow of the Padas River, said to be at least 15mph, to good use by stringing wire hawsers across the river and attaching a barge to the wires. By altering the angle of the barge, the force of the water provided the propulsion to get from one side to the other."

"To get back to the Jeep - it was a very successful operation and the army added a couple of flat top rolling stock for transporting various goods," Ron Boyden said. "This rail was used fairly effectively once they got the weight right."

"The Jeep itself was the biggest problem as it frequently slipped on the rails due to its lightness and we had to increase its weight with sand bags and sleepers. Even then we often had to assist it to commence moving by manually pushing it to start it on its way."

The Jeep supplied the forward positions with rations, ammunition and other material but its speed was rather limited and it rarely exceeded 20mph.

"The Japs came down on odd occasions at night to block the line with logs or sabotage the lines by removing a rail, so the train was often stopped while the matter was remedied," Ron Boyden said.

"There was always a danger of ambush at these delays so the Jeep always carried armed guards. I remember being one of those guards a couple of times. There was a particular blind spot near a point where a spur of the coastal range came down to meet the track. We were very alert about here and slowed down more than usual."

"One or two had to get down off the train and shift any logs or replace a line. Those who got off the train were always covered by a Bren gunner."

The train served another important role when it was used for medical emergencies.

The Willys Jeep



"One morning when we were stationed between Lumadan and Beaufort, a young girl was brought to us by her parents," Ron Boyden said. "She had awful burns to many parts of her body. Fluid-filled skin hung down from her arms and chest like water-filled balloons and the side of her face was similarly affected.

"We were told by her mother that a petrol lamp had exploded near her. The poor child was in deep shock. Both she and her mother were put on the Jeep when it arrived from Beaufort. I don't know whether she survived or not but her chances did not look good.

"This story of the use of the Jeep was somehow relayed to the *Women's Weekly* at the time and one of our troops received a copy of the article while we were still there in Borneo.

"In all, our regiment (2/3rd Anti-Tank) had killed about 70 Japs at the time the armistice came into effect.

"This Jeep or similar has now been put on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra."

The original material for this article was written by Ron Boyden of the Australian Capital Territory.

Various versions of the Willys Jeep used by Australian Forces during WW2



OP Resolute

by PTE Jack Kleinig

Since the end of January 2025, Members from the 10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment (RSAR), have been deployed to Darwin and the broader Northern Australia region in support of Operation Resolute, the Australian Defence Force's key contribution to protecting Australia's maritime interests.

Operation Resolute is the Australian Defence Force contribution to the whole-of-government effort to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests. Operation Resolute covers approximately 10 percent of the world's surface and includes the Australia's exclusive economic zone, which extends up to 200 nautical miles from the Australian mainland and offshore territories. Christmas, Cocos Keeling, Heard, McDonald, Macquarie, Norfolk and Lord Howe islands also fall within the Operation Resolute boundaries.

Operation Resolute and Transit Security Element 116 personnel, including 10th/27th RSAR members deployed to Operation Resolute to assist in addressing a broad range of maritime security challenges, including illegal maritime arrivals, maritime terrorism, violence at sea, breaches of biosecurity, illegal fishing, marine pollution, and the trafficking of prohibited imports and exports.

TSE 116 arrived in Darwin aboard a C-130J Hercules aircraft from No. 37 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, and immediately undertook a specialised training program. This training included boarding operations, survival at sea, weapons handling, and maritime law, equipping them with the essential skills required for their operational duties.

The members force assigned as TSE Rotation 116, which was the first tri-service rotation, consisting of Navy, Air Force and Army personnel. TSE 116 deployed on a range of vessels, including patrol boats and frigates. They have played a vital role in supporting Ships Company in day-to-day operations, training activities, and various maritime security tasks.

This deployment highlights the ongoing contribution of Army Reserve personnel to national security and the strength of the ADF's joint service operations in protecting Australia's borders.



Two Royal Australian Navy Cape-class patrol boats manoeuvring at sea.

OP Resolute

by PTE Jack Kleinig



Members of Transit Security Element 116 with 10/27 Battalion including RSAR Padre Captain Albrecht.



Members of TSE 116 boarding C130J Hercules at RAAF Base Edinburgh to travel to Darwin.



Members of 10/27Bn of the Royal South Australia Regiment embarked on a Royal Australian Navy Frigate.

FINANCIAL MEMBERS

Life Members		Members	A - G	Members	H-R	Members	S-Z
Acton	Chris	Abel	Colin	Hanson	Reece	Sailes	Adrian
Beckett	David	Abraham	Michael	Harrington	Malcolm	Sanders	Ashley
Benveniste	Sam	Albrecht	Stephen	Harrison	John	Sandhu	Zorawar
Blackmore	Bill	Allison	Robert	Harrison	Keith	Sando	Timothy
Boscence	Bob	Andrews	Ronnie	Harrison	Nigel	Schuh	Simon
Brookes	Phil	Angove	Derek	Hartshorne	Anthony	Scott	Rhys
Burnard	Trent	Angus	Sebastian	Hawkins	Des	Sexton	Mark
Burns	Wayne	Attenborough	Geoff	Heath	Jonathon	Shephard	Daniel
Carnachan	Ian	Baker	Craig	Hewett	Ben	Shrive	Hayden
Carpenter	Ian	Bampton	Michael	Hewitt	Emily	Skapin	Corey
Cotton	Bob	Barry-Orcales	Dianeever	Higgins	Kevin	Slater	Ian
Dart	John	Beames	Paul	Hill	Max	Sniedze	Julie
Davey	Trevor	Bennett	Christian	Hudson	Rick	Sperling	Patrick
Elliott	Graham	Blondell	Mark	Hudson	Mick	Tasker	David
Ewens	Mimi	Brown	Bruce	Hume	Matthew	Tattersall	Geoff
Gaborit	Lyndon	Burnard	Saxon	Humphrys	Jesse	Thomas	David
Goodwin	Graham	Burton	Ray	Jones	Brett	Threlfall	Kev
Harris	Lachlan	Buttars	Erik	Justin	Trent	Tiller	Damion
Hawking	Don	Carlisle	Lesley-Anne	Kleinig	Jack	Tran	Andy
Haynes	Malcolm	Cartwright	Harrison	Koop	Joshua	Treguis	Izaak
Higgins	Jonathan	Chamberlain	David	Kovacs	Philip	Trezeise	George
Hogan	Mark	Cooke	Nat	Laing	Selina	Tsoulakis	Christos
Hook	Alan	Cram	Kevin	Langtry	Paul	Tucker	Belinda
Hope	David	Dale	Andy	Larkins	Steve	Tucker	Paul
Horseman	Ian	Demosani	Tony	Leach	Thomas	Turner	Garry
Hudson	Mick	Dennis	Emily	Lee	Nathan	Vozelj	Blaz
Jackson	Aaron	Dew	Trevor	Lewis	James	Waldon	David
James	Grant	Djakovic	Livio	Loveder	Peter	Weepers	Nicole
Jeffrey	Scott	Domanski	Glenn	Matchett	William	Wheeler	Chris
Johnson	Paul	Donald	Thomas	McCulloch	Don	Wilkinson	Charles
Johnson	Barry	Drew	Anton	McIver	Bill	Williams	Reg
Klopf	Alex	Duncan	Coen	McKenzie	Kain	Williams	Janelle
Laing	David	Dunn	Bob	McMahon	Tyler	Williams	David
Lakin	Bruce	Dunn	Peter	Migali	Michael	Zuromski	Paul
Marlin	Robin	Duras	Roman	Mitchell	Barry		
Meredith	Mike	Etteridge	Hugh	Morony	Frank	Associate	Members
Miller	Nick	Eva	Keith	Mulroney	Dennis	Abel	Karen
Moore	Peter	Ewens	Mimi	New	Anthony	Angove	Leisel
Moore	Terry	Faunt	Joshua	Normandale	Zachary	Bampton	Leslie
Moore	Thomas	Flynn	Adrian	Oakley	Andrew	Carnachan	Dom
Paul	John	Fortune	Nigel	O'Daly	Ryan	Dunn	Trish
Pollard	Barry	Foy	Erin	Orrock	Alan	Eva	Gail
Richter	Sean	Gatley	Graham	Osborne	Isaac	Hawkins	Lynn
Salamon	Piotr	Genovese	John	Papps	Bernard	Hook	Philippa
Stewart	Robin	Ghanem	Paul	Parslow	Howard	Hudson	Margaret
Stewien	Peter	Gibson	Lindsay	Parsonage	James	Johnson	Margaret
Vella	Joe	Gill	Graham	Pascoe	Michael	Parsonage	Yvonne
Waters	Ian	Gordon	Frank	Payne	Bob	Pollard	Kay
Watters	Matthew	Griffiths	Amanda	Pearce	Philip	Toy	Jill
Westover	Rhys	Groffen	Renee	Pexton	Timothy	Winger	Kathleen
Wilson	Graham	Guglielmi	Jermaine	Phillips	Colin Rex		
Associate Life	Members	Please welcome new Serving Member Jack Kleinig from A Coy 10/27 Bn RSAR		Portakiewicz	Anthony	Honorary	Members
Elliott	Julie			Portakiewicz	David	MAJGEN Wilson	Neil
Field	Shirley			Portakiewicz	Richard	LTCOL Tyson	Darrin
Johnson	Sally			Powell	Gary	CAPT Jilbert	Charles
Laing	June			Preece	Brian	WO1 Broadbent	Mark
Parkin	Audrey			Rado	Steven		
Phillips	Heather			Ramm	Hank	Colour	Denotes
Sanderson	Lorraine			Ranger	Denis	Serving Member	Serving Member
Tregenza	Lyn			Rijken	Paul	Life Member	Life Member
				Roberts	Tony	Ordinary Member	Ordinary Member
				Robertson	James		

To those who have served, and those still serving, thank you for your service.