

# “SITREP, OVER!”

Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

October 2021

Patron - Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing

0407 791 822

## To Job or Not to Job?

## Who Cares? Read This!

Over 80 years ago, in Greece, sixty thousand Jews lived peacefully in Thessaloniki. It was a valued and vibrant community. Most of these Jews worked in the port; so much so that the port of Thessaloniki was even closed on Saturday, Shabbat. Great emeritus rabbis also lived and studied there. Everyone rubbed shoulders and appreciated one another.

But on 2 September 1939, on the eve of the outbreak of World War II, it is on this great community that the Nazi terror would eventually descend. On 6 April 1941, Hitler invaded Greece in order to secure its southern front before launching the famous Operation Barbarossa and its great offensive against Russia.

Of the 60,000 Jews in Thessaloniki, around 50,000 will be exterminated at the Birkenau concentration camp, in record time!

The massacre of the Jews of Greece was brief but intense. Very few would have the chance to make it.

But among the survivors there was a family known as Bourla.

After the war, in 1961, a son was born into this miraculous family from the camps. His parents called him Israel–Abraham. He grew up and studied veterinary medicine in Greece. A brilliant student, Abraham will get his doctorate in reproductive biotechnology at the veterinary school of Aristotle University in Salonika.

At the age of 34, he decided to move to the United States. He changes his first name Abraham, to Albert.

Albert was integrated into the medical industry. He progressed quickly and joined a pharmaceutical company where he became Head Manager. Abraham (Albert) rose through the ranks and got his appointment as CEO of this company in 2019.

Throughout the year Albert decides to direct the efforts of the company to try to find a vaccine against a new virus (Covid) which has just struck the world. He expends great financial and technological efforts to achieve his goal.

A year later the WHO (World Health Organization) validates his company to produce the long-awaited vaccine. His vaccine will be distributed in several countries including Germany, which counts thousands of dead from the pandemic.

Ironically, this vaccine which will save the lives of millions of people around the world including many Germans, was led and pushed by a little Jew from Thessaloniki, son of Holocaust survivors from whom most of his people were exterminated by Nazi Germany.

And that is why Israel became the first country to receive the vaccine - in memory of his grandparents and his parents, who gave birth to Israel-Abraham Bourla, known today as Albert Bourla: CEO of Pfizer.



### ITEMS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH

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OUR THANKS TO THE  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL  
MEMBER FOR BARKER,  
THE HONOURABLE **TONY  
PASIN MP** FOR PRINTING  
OUR NEWSLETTER HARD  
COPIES.





**ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC**



# 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**SUNDAY 24th OCTOBER 2021 @ 1100 hrs**  
**AVOCA HOTEL South Rd Clarence Gardens**

**NEW  
DATE**

Come along and have a say in how YOUR Association is run.

Meet your mates and have a beer.

Ample Parking at the Rear



**AGM 1100 to 1200**  
**LUNCH 1200 to 1400**  
**@ members cost**  
**Wives and Partners welcome**

Please reserve your seat by contacting the Secretary on 0407 791 822 or [davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com) NLT Friday 15th October 2021

**Meals to be ordered from 1030 hrs onwards and paid for prior to the AGM. Please don't be late.**

## Our Band does it again!

The Band of the 10th/27th Battalion played a concert at St Peters Girls School on Sunday 12th September, and they just get better every performance. Host MC Sgt Michael Abraham was brilliant in his first attempt and has cemented his future in show business from now on. WO2 David Portakiewicz is justifiably proud of the band, especially the new members who showed no nerves and played their hearts out. Well done all!



Sgt Abraham is assisted in the Raffle Draw by CO LTCOL Sam Benveniste



# Pull the Other One! – Dentistry in the 1st AIF

Dental health was an important aspect of physical wellbeing during WW1. When neglected, it had a serious impact on the manpower of the army.

Many will remember the scene in the 1981 Peter Weir film Gallipoli, where the character Snowy is trying to enlist in the 1st Australian Imperial Force (AIF). The Army Doctor says to him: “[Your] teeth aren’t all that good”, to which Snowy replies, “Supposed to shoot the enemy mate, not bite them”.



While Snowy may have been correct, dental health was an important aspect of physical wellbeing during WW1. When neglected, it had a serious impact on the manpower of the army as it caused fighting men to be withdrawn from the frontlines.

At the beginning of the WW1, the Australian Army had no specialist dental services and, in all probability, Snowy would not have been enlisted. In part, this was because the organisation of the AIF was based on the British Army, where dental services were provided by the Regimental Medical Officer (RMO). This was very much a secondary task for the RMO, since dental disease was

seen to be outside of the interest of orthodox medicine. When war broke out in 1914 many dental practitioners volunteered for service in the AIF but, since there were no dental units, they were not enlisted as specialist. Some went to medical positions in the field ambulance and, using regimental funds, purchased the necessary dental tools or were supplied with these tools through the Australian Red Cross.

Because the original enlistments in the AIF were extremely selective, the dental fitness of the first troops sent overseas was generally good. However the need for reinforcements meant the recruitment of those with a lower degree of dental fitness. On 6 January 1915, approval was given for the establishment of an Australian Army Medical Corps Reserve (Dental). This provided dentists for the increasing number of recruits who required dental work to make them medically fit for service overseas.

The Army’s ad hoc approach to dental health had consequences at Gallipoli where the condition of ulcerative gingivitis (or trench mouth) became prevalent. Not only did this disease lead to pain and discomfort, but those who suffered from it were often unable to eat their ration of hard army biscuits. With no proper facilities to treat this disease, those soldiers who were qualified dentists in civilian life began to treat their fellow soldiers on a part-time basis, usually when they were off duty or not on fatigue parties. Facilities were extremely rudimentary, the typical ‘dental surgery’ being a space in the side of a dugout often a few yards from the Turkish lines. If the patient was lucky, the ‘surgery’ would have a home made dentist chair built by the unit carpenter. Owing to the lack of dental supplies and equipment, often the only treatment that could be applied to an offending tooth was the extraction.

By the end of June 1915 the demand for dental services in Egypt and Gallipoli had become so urgent that the need could no longer be ignored. 14 dental officers, 12 dental mechanics and 13 privates were authorised for overseas service, with half of these officers coming from those qualified dentists already in Egypt but employed in other duties. There were significant shortages of dental equipment with the supply of Plaster of Paris, used for making dental moulds, being particularly critical. Unable to source Plaster of Paris from the United Kingdom the Australian dentists decided to make their own. A gypsum deposit was located in the desert, some 128 kilometres from Cairo. Avoiding marauding desert tribesmen, the dental staff sourced the

# WW1 Fang Bandits

mineral, burnt and ground it in a brickyard kiln, packed the residue into disused petrol tins and brought it back down the Nile to Cairo. It was then used as a passable Plaster of Paris substitute.

Following the Gallipoli campaign and the early Sinai battles, the experience of having to evacuate soldiers from the front line due to dental disease meant that AIF commanders now recognised the advantages of good dental health. By April 1916 the Army had 36 fully equipped dental units, with three dental sections attached to each division and one to each field ambulance. Equally important was the development of Army dental policy, although this lagged behind the establishment of units. Australian reinforcement depots in the United Kingdom, pressured to make up for the casualties suffered in the battles of 1916, often sent troops to the Western Front without any dental checks. Dental officers were powerless to prevent this since, under military law, only the unit RMO had the power to declare a soldier as unfit for frontline duty. It was not until February 1917 that a General Routine Order was issued giving dental officers the power to parade men for compulsory dental inspection and treatment. This Routine Order, combined with the definition of dental fitness (a mouth free from dental disease and enough teeth to eat with), provided the necessary authority for effective dental treatment.

The dental history of the AIF between the years 1916-1918 is one of improving capacity and technique. In 1916-17 there was one dental officer per 7,500 men and by 1918-19 this had increased to one dental officer every 4,250 men. It is no coincidence that by 1918 the increase in dental health amongst the AIF was noticeable. Extraction ceased to be the only option for dental treatment, with policy guidelines requiring that 'no teeth should be extracted which can be saved'. A 45 per cent decline in extractions was complemented by a 65 per cent increase in the number of fillings. Crowns, dentures, bridge work and root canal treatment numbers increased. Where soldiers had insufficient teeth to grip the mouth piece of a gas mask, dentures were usually provided, with the soldiers typically wearing the upper dentures while carrying the lower set in their pocket. The magnitude of the pioneering work done by the AIF Army dental units is illustrated by the following statistics for dental work completed between August 1915 and June 1919:

**Cases treated:** 1,211,457  
**Teeth extracted:** 312,307  
**Fillings:** 188,633  
**Dentures:** 147,037

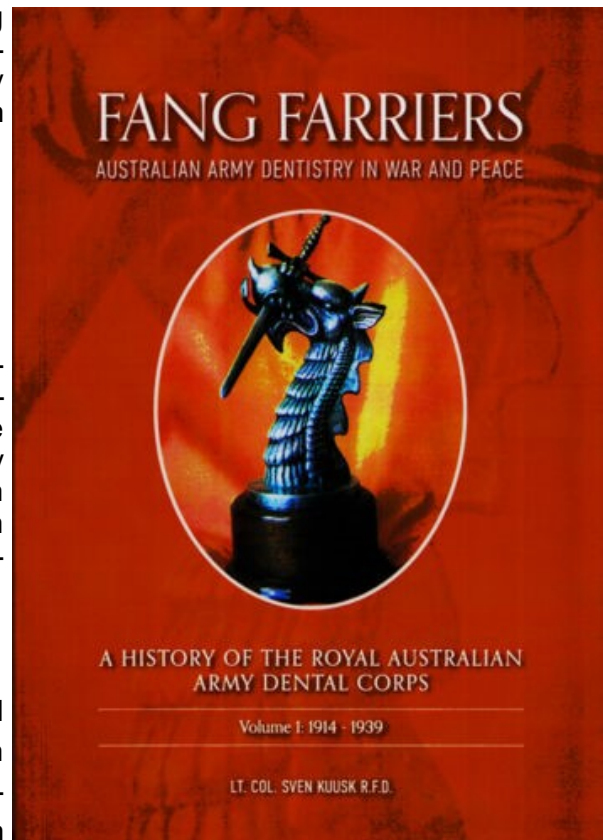
By the close of WW1, a small cadre of dental officers carried out exercises to capture the lesson of the AIF and refine the tools and doctrine for practice of dentistry in the field. This experience provided the core capability for Army dental services in the Second World War, with recognition of the importance of dental services leading to the creation of a separate Australian Army Dental Corps in 1943. It became the Royal Australian Army Dental Corps in 1948.

By Ian Finlayson - Australian Army History Unit

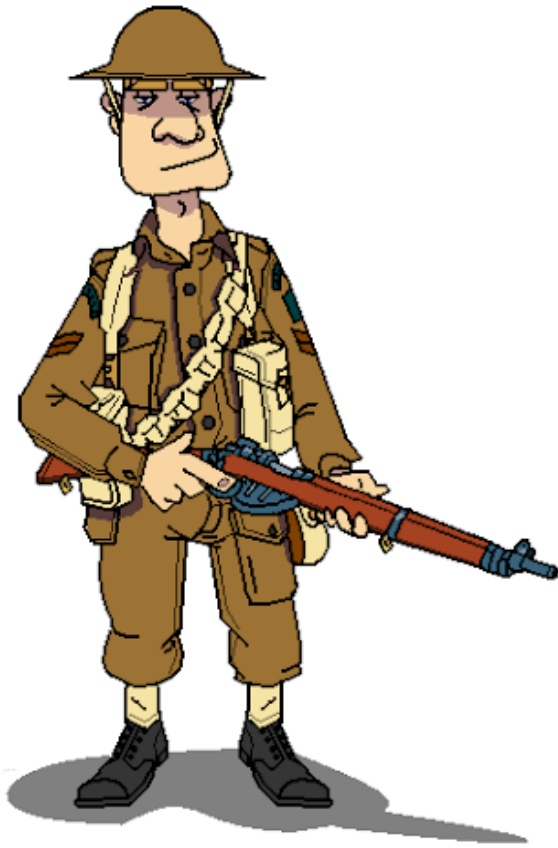
For those with a further interest in Army Dentistry should seek the book: Fang Farriers, Australian army dentistry in war and peace: a history of the Royal Australian Army Dental Corps by Sven Kuusk. This book was supported by an Army History Research Grant.

From [www.army.gov.au/our-heritage/history](http://www.army.gov.au/our-heritage/history)

Some members would know Sven Kuusk from his CMF service and time as Curator of the Army Museum at Keswick Barracks.



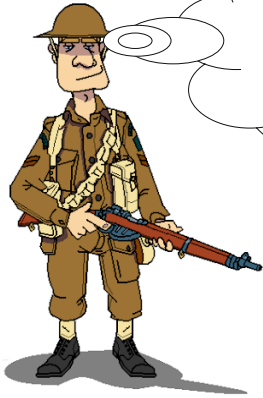
## Corporal Numbnutz Funnies.



**Do you ever wake up, kiss the person sleeping beside you, and feel glad that you are alive? I just did and apparently will not be allowed on this airline again....**



**I just cleared out some space in the freezer sounds much more productive than I just polished off another pint of ice cream.**



When I offered to wash your back in the shower, all you had to say was "No thank you!" Not "How the Hell did you get in here?" and "Who the Hell are you!"

## Diet day 1:

**I have removed all the bad food from the house. It was delicious.**

What inspires you to get out of bed every morning?

My bladder mostly.

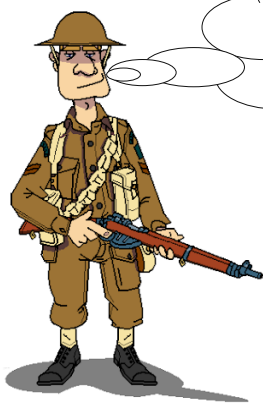


**ONE MINUTE YOU'RE 21, STAYING UP ALL NIGHT DRINKING BEER, EATING PIZZA AND DOING SKETCHY STUFF JUST FOR FUN. THEN...**

**IN A BLINK OF AN EYE YOU'RE 50, DRINKING WATER, EATING SALAD AND YOU CAN'T DO ANY SKETCHY STUFF, BECAUSE YOU PULLED A MUSCLE PUTTING ON YOUR SOCKS.**

**Husband takes the wife to a disco. There's a guy on the dance floor break dancing, moonwalking, back flips, the works. The wife turns to her husband and says, "See that guy? 25 years ago he proposed to me and I turned him down."**

**Husband says, "Looks like he's still celebrating!"**

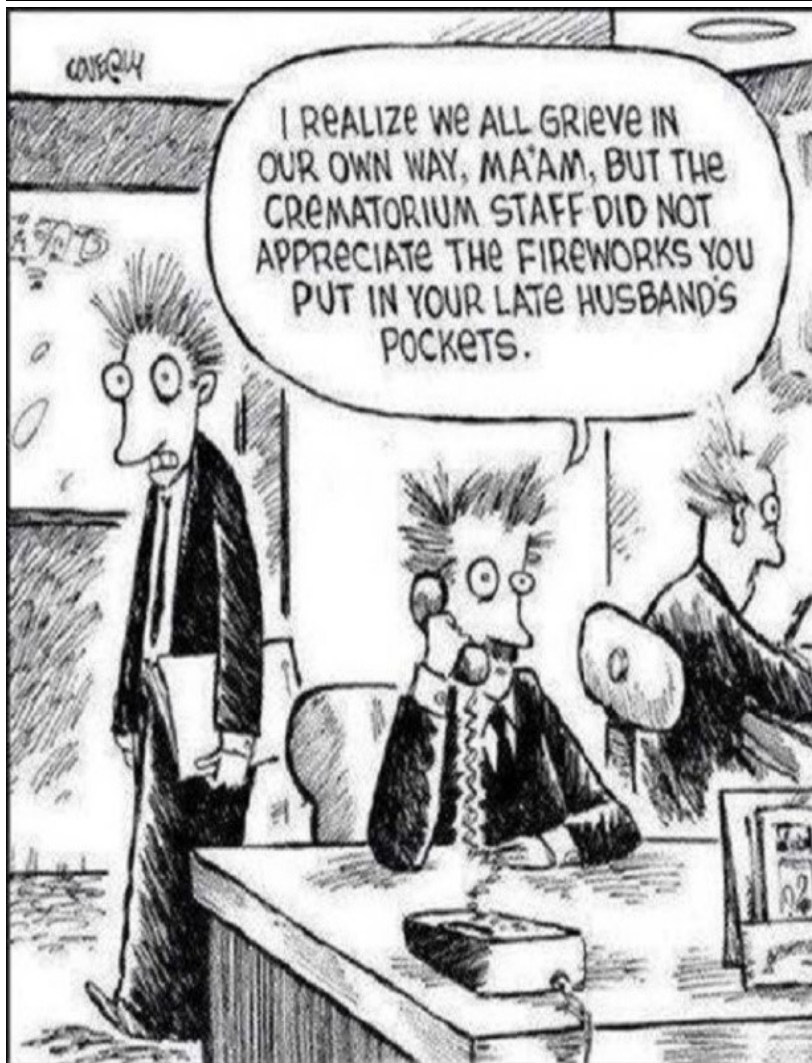


And so ends another week  
without me becoming  
unexpectedly rich!

*My kid made the mistake  
of telling me I was being  
overdramatic so I just  
changed the wifi password.  
We'll see who's  
overdramatic in about 5  
minutes.*

*Next time you go  
on a roller coaster  
take some spare  
bolts with you & tell  
the person in front  
of you, "Dude these  
came out of  
your seat!"*

**I AM SO OLD THAT  
WHEN I WAS A KID,  
WE ACTUALLY HAD TO  
WIN TO GET A TROPHY!**



# STEALTH RAIDERS A Few Daring Men in 1918

8

About 3 weeks ago I received a letter from old mate Peter Loveder, who was locked down in Mildura. As you do when you can't leave the house, Peter has been biding his time reading some good books, and he recommended this one to me. Peter says

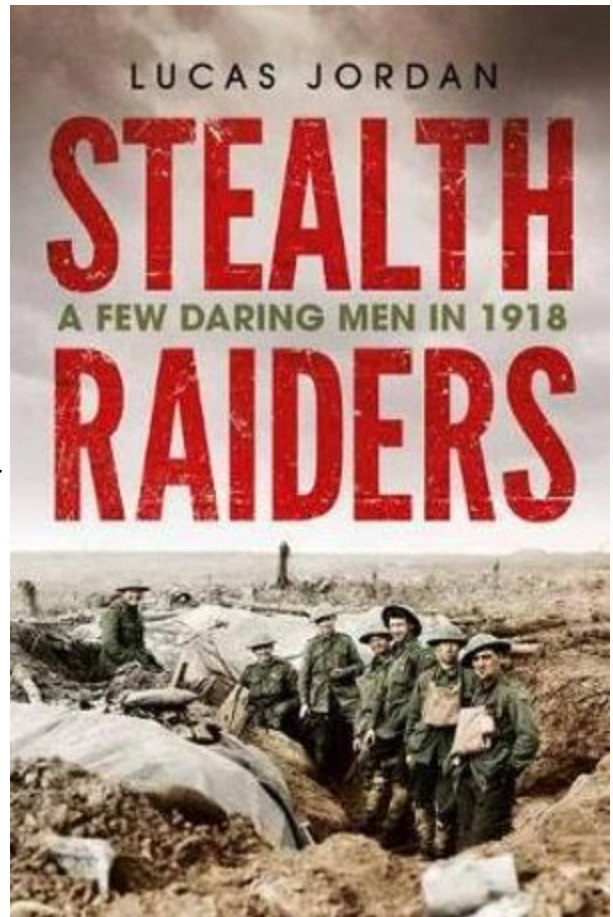
*"David,*

*I thought you might be interested in this book. It certainly shows how the Diggers used their initiative towards the end of WW1. A pity all the commanders didn't implement these tactics early on in the war. To me it proves how good the Diggers really were, due to their background in Australia, and the fact they learned to be self-reliant and resourceful and could think for themselves, unlike the English soldiers who had been brainwashed and told not to think for themselves.*

*Regards*

*Peter Loveder*

In 1918 a few daring low-ranking Australian infantrymen, alone among all the armies on the Western Front, initiated stealth raids without orders. These stealth raiders killed Germans, captured prisoners and advanced the line, sometimes by thousands of yards. They were held in high regard by other men of the lower ranks and were feared by the Germans facing them.



Who were these stealth raiders and why did they do it? What made Australian soldiers take on this independent and personal type of warfare? Using their firsthand accounts, as well as official archives and private records, Lucas Jordan pieces their stories together.

A gripping account of the crucial summer on the Western Front, *Stealth Raiders- A Few Daring Men in 1918* considers the stealth raiders' war experience and training, the unprecedented conditions at the front and the morale of the German Army in 1918. Lucas Jordan argues that bush skills, and the bush ethos central to Australian civil society - with its emphasis on resourcefulness and initiative - made stealth raids a distinctively Australian phenomenon.

Continued next page



# STEALTH RAIDERS

# A Few Daring Men in 1918

## About the Author

Lucas Jordan grew up in Burekup in Western Australia and studied his Bachelor of Arts at the University of Western Australia, majoring in history and political science.

Lucas completed a Bachelor of Education at the University of Queensland followed by a Masters in Aboriginal Studies at the University of Notre Dame. This led to more than a decade of teaching and research in the Kimberley, Cape York and central Australia, and ingrained in him a deep respect for the Australian bush and its people. Lucas worked for Amnesty International as a researcher and fieldworker and co-



wrote Amnesty's global report "'The land holds us': Aboriginal peoples' right to their traditional homelands in the Northern Territory", which was based on three years of collaboration and camping with the Alyawarr and Anmatyerr people of the Northern Territory.

Lucas has taught history to undergraduate students at Deakin and Monash universities. He is currently a history teacher at Western English Language School, a secondary

school for new arrivals and refugees in Melbourne. *Stealth Raiders* is his first book and is adapted from his PhD thesis, supervised by award-winning historians Professor Bill Gammage (ANU) and Dr Peter Stanley (UNSW).

Lucas lives in Lara, Victoria, with his wife and two sons and enjoys surfing, fossicking around the coast and the bush with his sons, and reading, writing and teaching Australian history.

## Industry Reviews

Depressingly often we see books promoted as “the forgotten story” or “the untold story”. Yet *Stealth Raiders* tells such a story, of a few daring Australian infantry who without orders, and alone among the Allied armies, consistently raided the German front in daylight, and for six months in 1918 so demoralized their opponents that they feared to enter the line against them—Bill Gammage

*Editors Note: This book is available from all good booksellers, and via the internet. I found the best deal was via [ebay](#), with FREE delivery to your door. Total Cost only \$28.75 within 1 week.*

## PROJECT AMIENS - THE FINAL CHAPTER

By Des Hawkins



The 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF captured this particular 77mm FK16 field gun near Holly Post, France on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1918. The Battalion formed part of the assault by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> divisions on the Hindenburg line. It resulted in the surrender of about 100 Germans, 4 field guns and 12 machine guns. By the end of the day the Australian Division had advanced through the German defences and captured 4300 prisoners and 76 artillery pieces at the cost of 1260 dead and wounded.

The Australian War Museum presented this gun to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion in 1920 as a War Trophy.

The purpose of War Trophies was to see that each Infantry Battalion and Light Horse Regiment would receive a gun captured by the corresponding unit in the A.I.F.

In 1920 the Director of the Australian War Museum in Melbourne presented to the 5th Battalion 10th Infantry Regiment this M1916 77mm Field Gun serial number 13176. On arrival in South Australia it was sent to the Alberton depot and then moved to Torrens Parade Ground on completion of the newly constructed building in 1936, the home of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal South Australia Regiment.

It remained there for a considerable period of time until deterioration made the weapon unsafe to the general public and resulted in its removal to Hampstead Barracks where limited attempts were made to restore the weapon such as wheels and striping numerous coats of paint.



It was towards the end of 1999 early 2000 that the restoration and conservation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Trophy (77mm German Field Artillery) **Project Amiens** was conceived.

Thanks to Col B.R. Edwards, the then Commander 4 Training Group, who was able to interest Tenix Defence Systems Pty Ltd, a major civilian Defence contractor, in assisting with the conservation and restoration of the piece. With Regimental Council support and the work of Maj. Jeff Ayles ((Retd) the RSAR Historical Collection provided the necessary support which enabled Tenix Defence Systems to transport, patch weld where necessary, completing the final painting to specifications and lastly to mount the gun at Keswick Barracks.

The Army Museum of South Australia at Keswick Barracks, where the RSAR Historical Collection is located, was considered the most logical place. Permission was obtained and it was agreed by the Regimental Council that the most appropriate day to have the War Trophy unveiled and open for display would be Amiens day, 8<sup>th</sup> August, the regimental day of the Royal South Australia Regiment.

It was considered appropriate that the Director of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, Maj. Gen. Steve Gower would do the unveiling on the 13th August 2000.

After 21 years of being on display to the public the museum needs to update its displays and so the field

## PROJECT AMIENS - THE FINAL CHAPTER

By Des Hawkins

gun has been placed back into storage.

Earlier this year I put forward a proposal to the Regimental Council that “our” field gun be placed on permanent display under a purpose built canopy near the front entrance of 10/27 BHQ Keswick.

The proposal met with council approval, plans have been drafted and a government grant for \$3000 towards its construction has also been approved.

We now await final clearance from Keswick Barracks management for the project to proceed.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E03519

*A captured German 77mm gun at Belley Wood, near Cologne Farm, in the Bellicourt section of the Hindenburg Defences. The type of shell used is seen on the gun trail.*

The Field – Kanone (FK)16 was a standard gun used by German Field Artillery units between 1916 and 1918. It was developed from the successful C96 model and used 77mm ammunition. These field guns were positioned close to the front line to provide supporting fire for the infantry. It had a range of 10,300 metres, a weight of 1,247 kg. A gun limber of 24 rounds drawn by 4 horses per gun and limber with a gun crew consisting a gun layer and loader travelling with the gun and three gunners seated on top of the limber.

*Postscript: Gun #13176 was allocated to go to TTD as an Army allocated War Trophy but the 10 Bn. was relocated to Alberton whilst the old HQ building at TTD was under construction and not completed until 1936. A second Gun #1562 was given to Alberton for Victor Harbor due to the recruitment of the 10<sup>th</sup> Bn. Personnel and was the Battalions responsibility to locate it.*

As part of the Australian Government program of distributing war relics to interested local communities, this field gun was installed in the Soldiers' Memorial Garden Victor Harbor in the 1920s and restored by the Victor Harbor RSL in 2002. It is a Krupp FK 77mm Field Gun (number 1562) captured from the German Army by the 10th Battalion AIF from South Australia in France on the Hindenburg Line

# The Story of LENNIE & GINGER MICK



It's 1932 and Australia is in the grip of the Great Depression. One in three workers are unemployed. Decripit shanty towns hug the outskirts of the big cities. A scrawny rabbit caught in a trap will feed a family for a week. Country roads are filled with broken men walking from one farmhouse to another seeking menial jobs and food. On the outskirts of the South Gippsland town of Leongatha, an injured farmer lies in bed unable to walk – or work. World War I hero Captain Leo Tennyson Gwyther is in

hospital with a broken leg and the family farm is in danger of falling into ruins.

Up steps his son, nine-year-old Lennie. With the help of his pony Ginger Mick, Lennie ploughs the farm's 24 paddocks and keeps the place running until his father can get back on his feet. How to reward him? Lennie has been obsessively following one of the biggest engineering feats of the era – the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. He wants to attend its opening. With great reluctance, his parents agree he can go. So Lennie saddles up Ginger Mick, packs a toothbrush, pyjamas, spare clothes



and a water bottle into a sack, and begins the 1000+ kilometer (600+ miles) trek to Sydney. Alone. That's right. A nine year old boy riding a pony from the deep south of Victoria to the biggest and roughest city in the nation. Told you it was a different era. No social media. No mobile phones. But even then it doesn't take long before word begins to spread about a boy, his horse and their epic trek. The entire populations of small country towns gather on their outskirts to welcome his arrival. He survives bushfires, is attacked by a "vagabond" and endures rain and cold, biting winds. When he reaches Canberra he is welcomed by Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, who invites him into Parliament House for tea. When he finally arrives in Sydney, more than 10,000 people line the streets to greet him. He is besieged by autograph hunters. He becomes a key part of the official parade at the bridge's opening. He and Ginger Mick are invited to make a starring appearance at the Royal Show.

## LENNIE & GINGER MICK

continued

Even Donald Bradman, the biggest celebrity of the Depression era, requests a meeting and gives him a signed cricket bat. A letter writer to The Sydney Morning Herald at the time gushes that “just such an example as provided by a child of nine summers, Lennie Gwyther was, and is, needed to raise the spirit of our people and to fire our youth and others to do things – not to talk only. “The sturdy pioneer spirit is not dead ... let it be remembered that this little lad, when his father was in hospital, cultivated the farm – a mere child.” When Lennie leaves Sydney for home a month later, he has become one of the most famous figures in a country craving uplifting news. Large crowds wave handkerchiefs. Women weep and shout “goodbye”. According to The Sun newspaper, “Lennie, being a casual Australian, swung into the saddle and called ‘Toodleloo!’”. He finally arrives home to a tumultuous reaction in Leongatha. He returns to school and soon life for Lennie –



and the country – returns to normal. These days you can find a bronze statue in Leongatha commemorating Lennie and Ginger Mick. But Australia has largely forgotten his remarkable feat – and how he inspired a struggling nation. Never taught about him in school?

Never heard of him before? Spread the word. We need to remember – and celebrate – Lennie Gwyther and his courageous journey. It's a great story. God knows we need these stories now, more than ever .

### What happened to Lennie & Mick?

At the age of 19, Lennie enlisted in the army for World War II where he served in the Morotai Islands in the Pacific. Ginger Mick lived to the ripe age of 27 on the Gwyther Farm. Lennie worked as an engineer with General Motors' Holden at Fishermans Bend, Victoria and lived in the Melbourne suburb of Hampton.

In later life, Lennie's passion for fishing and sailing was reflected in the fact that he built a yacht, with the intention of sailing to Tasmania and then to New Zealand. His granddaughter commented in 2015 that "he had a lathe in the shed and he was always turning wood or making tools or tables. There wasn't really anything he couldn't do. I'm sure he would have attempted sailing around the world, that's how adventurous he was."

Lennie Gwyther died of cancer in 1992, at the age of 70.

*Article suggested by David Mutch*

## EDITORIAL

The story on Page 3 “Pull the Other One—Dentistry in the 1st AIF” reminded me of a couple of blokes I did my recruit training with in 1971-72. When we all signed on the line for “Queen & Country” we were asked to nominate the Corps of our choice. I chose Infantry, and Armour as a 2nd preference. Some went to Armour, Artillery, Transport etc, and a few were going to train in the Medical Corps. The two mates I mentioned also had their choices. Recruit Pain was going to be a Dental Technician, and Recruit De’ath wanted to be a Doctor. I can imagine being called into the Surgery by the assistant. “Mr Laing. Doctor De’ath will see you now!” Ouch!

We also had a Private Parts, a Private Sargent, a Private Farmer and a Private Rooms, with an Instructor from Melbourne University Regiment named Sergeant Major. “Yes Sir! Err, Sergeant!. Er, Major!!”

Since I took over the newsletter from Past President Alan Hook, I have tried to include stories of interest to the members. At most times I have succeeded, but at other times I have received comments that are unfavourable. My answer to that is, read on or delete! It’s that simple! So, apart from the few detractors, I have lots of articles sent to me by readers who have found something interesting that they think I should share with others. And usually they’re correct, so, in it goes. If you are reading a story, usually with a military flavour, please consider passing it on so I can share it with others. It’s your interest which keeps the newsletter interesting. Over!.

Amongst about 300 others, my wife and I attended a performance of the 10/27 Band at the St Peters Girls School on Sunday 12th September. I have previously had the pleasure of seeing the band in concert, plus being MC at a further 5 concerts from 2015 to 2018, and I must say the band just gets better every year! Ably hosted by Sgt Michael Abraham in his first gig as MC, he pulled off the job with ease and I am happy to pass “the baton” to him for future concerts. There were a few new band faces since my last concert, but they all banded together (pun intended) and played some wonderful tunes. The addition of WO2 Phil Wyld and Musn Nigel Fortune on bagpipes, plus old faithful SSGT Grant James on side drum had everyone’s feet tapping in time. (This concert was Grants’ last with the Battalion as he is shortly to transfer to 1 Armoured Regiment in a full time capacity. Grant spent 22 years with 10 and 10/27 Battalions, and will shortly receive his Federation Star for 42 years of Reserve Service. Well done that man! ) Bandmaster WO2 David Portakiewicz is justifiably proud of the Band, and the Association are proud of them all. Those who missed out, really missed out!

That’s what I think!

Cheers and Stay Safe.

*David Laing* - Secretary / Editor



### Contact Us, via

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**0407 791 822**



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Visit us on the web at  
[www.rsara.asn.au](http://www.rsara.asn.au)

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*Bendigo Bank* account:

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*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](mailto:christianbennett95@gmail.com)

# LETTERS

Hi David. Re: TTD

Many happy memories of Torrens Parade Ground as a young *baggy arse* in 1966/67. Marching up and down, stripping and assembling various items of mayhem and then a tactical retirement to the OR's boozier to chuck down schooners and pints of recuperating liquid until, sometimes a languid sun peeked across that sacred ground. Serenading the Governor's residence with unmentionable military ditties, until some pimply and breathless equerry told us to keep the noise down or bugger off! Our response was *go ye forth and multiply*. I remember the songs well and now bust into verse on appropriate occasions, which is usually after one or two beers and when we have visitors. And we got paid for this jollity, hence my recruitment into the regular mob; however that mob didn't have the same sense of fun and humour and it took me over 20 years to extricate myself

Hope to catch up with Joe Vella in the next few weeks.

Keep well.

Cheers

*Phil Brookes*

G'day David,

Thanks again for your contribution to the push to revisit the storage pods in the Torrens Drill Hall decision. The government's revision of its plans is down to the combined efforts of the veteran and ex-service community, and I'm sure your letter to Adrian Pederick MP would have had considerable impact.

The government has now formed a steering committee to look at the longer-term future of the Torrens precinct, and while terms of reference are yet to be made available, the committee will start its work late this month. In the first instance they are calling in the current tenants to make oral submissions, and it is to be hoped that they will be engaging with the wider veteran and ex-service community about their views on what might be done with the precinct (and also what should not be done with it). In my view, it is critically important for the wider veteran and ex-service community to be able to make written submissions, and while the current tenants don't appear to wish to speak with a common voice at this stage, it is going to be important that as many ex-service organisations as possible are fully informed and make their views heard.

You may be aware there is a Consortium of Ex-Service Organisations here in SA, which is an informal gathering including some 16 or so veteran, ex-service and kindred organisations. I am a member of the Consortium by virtue of my role as co-chair of Aboriginal Veterans SA, and along with Bill Denny (former RSL Anzac Day Committee chair and Director Veterans SA) and Bill Hignett (Plympton Veterans' Centre and President of the Plympton-Glenelg RSL), I do a bit of the coordination and drafting of matters for the Consortium. Bill Denny has been appointed to the steering committee, so in this instance he must stand aside from Consortium consideration of this matter. Members of the Consortium don't all agree on every issue, of course, and members of the Consortium decide on a case-by-case basis if they wish to endorse a consensus position on an issue of importance to the veteran and ex-service community and sign a letter that reflects that consensus, make their own individual approaches on such an issue, or not engage with it. It is to be hoped that a significant number of Consortium members could agree on a set of principles by which the Torrens precinct should be managed into the future, and that such a set of principles might form the basis for a submission to the steering committee.

I am wondering if the RSARA would like to be included in discussions with Consortium members regarding this issue? It seems to me that there is no organisation more bound up in the history of the precinct than the RSARA, and your input would be very valuable and appreciated by other Consortium members.

Please give this your consideration and let me know your thoughts?

Regards,

*Ian Smith*

# OP RESOLUTE

Operation RESOLUTE is the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) contribution to the whole-of-government effort to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests through surveillance and response in the maritime approaches to Australia.

Operation RESOLUTE covers approximately 10 per cent of the world's surface and includes the Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (AEEZ) 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.

The ADF contributes forces under Operation RESOLUTE, through Joint Task Force 639, to Maritime Border Command (MBC). MBC is a multi-agency taskforce, within the Australian Border Force (ABF), which utilises assets assigned from ABF and ADF to conduct civil maritime security operations. MBC protects Australia's maritime domain from security threats, including:

- Illegal Maritime Arrivals;
- Maritime terrorism;
- Piracy, robbery and violence at sea;
- Compromise to bio-security;
- Illegal activity in protected areas;
- Illegal exploitation of natural resources (eg. illegal fishing);
- Marine pollution; and
- Prohibited imports and exports.

## Commitment

At any one time, up to 600 ADF personnel may be on Operation RESOLUTE either at sea, in the air or on the land. They work alongside personnel from ABF staff and other agencies. This number fluctuates depending on how many assets are assigned to the mission at the time. The following ADF elements may be allocated to Operation RESOLUTE: Royal Australian Air Force P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to provide aerial surveillance of Australia's north-west and northern approaches; Royal Australian Navy's Armidale Class Patrol Boats (ACPBs) and Cape Class Patrol Boats (CCPBs)

operate daily throughout Australia's maritime areas;

Australian Army Regional Force Surveillance Unit (RFSU) patrols which conduct land based security operations;

- A Transit Security Element (TSE) made up of Navy and Army personnel who embark in the ACPBs; and Large Hull Vessels on an as required basis.

In addition, ADF units, whilst not assigned to Operation RESOLUTE, also contribute to the overall surveillance and security effort through their presence and regular transits of the area.

*Editors Note: Members of 10/27 RSAR have previously committed to serve on Op Resolute. Former RSARA Committee Member SGT Mark Blondell is the latest to put his hand up, and we thank him for his service.*





Life Members			Members A-S			Honorary Members																										
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name																									
Acton	Chris		Abel	Colin		Read	WO1	Ben																								
Ayles	Jeff		Abraham	Michael	SM	Benveniste	LTCOL	Sam																								
Beckett	David	SM	Attenborough	Geoff		Wilson	MAJGEN	Neil																								
Benveniste	Sam	SM	Bampton	Michael	SM	<b>Honorary Member for Life</b>																										
Blackmore	Bill		Bennett	Christian	SM																											
Boscence	Bob		Blondell	Mark	SM	Beames		Rodney																								
Brookes	Philip		Brown	Bruce		<b>Associate Life Members</b>																										
Burnard	Trent	SM	Burnard	Saxon	SM																											
Burns	Wayne		Burton	Ray		<b>Last Name</b>		<b>First Name</b>																								
Carnachan	Ian		Buttars	Erik		Elliott		Julie																								
Carpenter	Ian		Carlisle	Lesley-Ann	SM <span style="color:red">Σ</span>	Field		Shirley																								
Cotton	Bob		Cooke	Nat		Johnson		Sally																								
Dart	John		Cram	Kevin	<span style="color:red">Σ</span>	Laing		June																								
Davey	Trevor		Demosani	Tony		Phillips		Heather																								
Elliott	Graham		Dew	Trevor		Sanderson		Lorraine																								
Gaborit	Lyndon		Domanski	Glenn																												
Harris	Lachlan		Dunn	Bob																												
Hawking	Don		Dunn	Peter		<b>Associate Members</b>																										
Haynes	Malcolm	SM	Eva	Keith																												
Higgins	Jonathon	SM	Ewens	Mimi	SM	<b>Last Name</b>		<b>First Name</b>																								
Higgins	Jonathon		Faquiri	Reshad	SM	Abel		Karen																								
Hogan	Mark		Faunt	Joshua	SM	Carnachan		Dom <span style="color:red">Σ</span>																								
Hook	Alan		Foy	Erin	SM	Dunn		Trish																								
Hope	David		Gatley	Graham	<span style="color:red">▲</span>	Hudson		Margaret																								
Horseman	Ian		Gibson	Lindsay		Johnson		Margaret																								
Hudson	Mike		Gill	Graham		Parsonage		Yvonne																								
Jackson	Aaron	SM	Goodwin	Graham	SM	Toy		Jill																								
James	Grant	SM	Gordon	Frank		Tregenza		Lyn																								
Johnson	Paul		Groffen	Renee		Winger		Kathleen																								
Johnson	Barry		Harrington	Malcolm		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Honourary Member for Life</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Honorary Members</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life Members</td> <td>49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serving Life Members</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Members</td> <td>77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serving Members</td> <td>39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Associate Life Members</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Associate Members</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total financial members</b></td> <td><b>183</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Prepaid Members</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><span style="color:red">Σ</span> 2021/22</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><span style="color:red">▲</span> 2022/23</td> </tr> </table>			Honourary Member for Life	1	Honorary Members	3	Life Members	49	Serving Life Members	11	Members	77	Serving Members	39	Associate Life Members	5	Associate Members	9	<b>Total financial members</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>Prepaid Members</b>			<span style="color:red">Σ</span> 2021/22		<span style="color:red">▲</span> 2022/23
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Laing	David		Harrison	Keith																												
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Marlin	Robin	SM	Hawkins	Des																												
Meredith	Michael	SM	Hill	Max																												
Miller	Nick		Hudson	Rick																												
Moore	Terry		Hume	Matthew	SM																											
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Pollard	Barry		Koop	Joshua	SM																											
Salamon	Piotr		Loveder	Peter																												
Sanderson	Max		Matchett	William																												
Standing	Michael		McCulloch	Don																												
Stewart	Robin		McIver	Bill																												
Stewien	Peter		Mitchell	Barry																												
Vella	Joe		Moroney	Frank																												
Waters	Ian		Mulroney	Dennis																												
Westover	Rhys		Normadale	Zachary	SM																											
Wilson	Graham		Oakley	Andrew																												
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg		O'Daly	Ryan	SM																											
			Orrock	Alan																												
<b>Members S - Z</b>			Parslow	Howard	<span style="color:red">Σ</span>																											
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Serving</b>	Parsonage	James																												
Sanders	Ashley	SM <span style="color:red">Σ</span>	Pascoe	Michael																												
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Scott	Rhys	SM	Pexton	Timothy	SM																											
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Smith	Ryan	SM	Portakiewicz	Anthony	SM <span style="color:red">Σ</span>																											
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Tasker	David		Powell	Gary																												
Thomas	David		Preece	Brian																												
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Tsoulakis	Christos	SM	Robertson	James																												
Tucker	Belinda	SM	Rossetti	Lee																												
Weepers	Nicole	SM	Sage	Andrew																												
Wheeler	Chris																															



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



Membership Category

Date of Application / /

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

My Details - Please print clearly

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

Method of Payment

<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque or Money Order - Payable to The Treasurer RSAR Association Christian Bennett 5 Ashwin Parade Torrensville SA 5031	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Funds Transfer Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc BSB 633 000 Account 1616 585 88 Include your name as an identifier								
<input type="checkbox"/> CASH (In person to the Committee)	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (The Fire & Forget option) <table border="1"> <tr><td>Account Name:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bank:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>BSB:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Acct #</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Funds will be deducted at the start of each financial year and can be ceased on written notification to the Secretary or Treasurer</p>	Account Name:		Bank:		BSB:		Acct #	
Account Name:									
Bank:									
BSB:									
Acct #									

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



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



Please send this completed application, with any proof of service to the RSAR Association Secretary at [davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com)