

# HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II, our longest serving Sovereign and Australia's Head of State will be remembered for her devotion and commitment to service.

A woman of immense grace and quiet dignity who vowed, at the tender age of 21, to dedicate her life to our service.

Her Majesty had great affection for Australia and her peoples, visiting sixteen times during her reign. Indeed, as a very young Princess she once asked her Governess whether she would arrive in Australia if she dug down through the middle of the earth.

Her Majesty lived through pivotal events over her 96 years – war and conflict, depression, recession and decolonisation. She witnessed the first man on the moon and the attainment of civil rights. Queen Elizabeth led through immense global change and did it all with grace and dignity, remaining utterly devoted to God, her country and her subjects through every event.

As our second Elizabethan age comes to an end, may Her Majesty's extraordinary example of lifelong commitment to duty continue to inspire us.

Our thoughts are with His Royal Highness, King Charles III and his extended family as he leads our Commonwealth and the Royal family through this momentous time.



# "Sitrep, Over!"<sup>2</sup>

Official Monthly Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

October 2022

Patron - Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing 0407 791 822

## LCPL Lawrence Weathers VC

**Lawrence Carthage Weathers, VC** (14 May 1890 – 29 September 1918) was a New Zealand-born Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry in battle that could be awarded to a member of the Australian armed forces at the time. His parents returned to their native South Australia when Weathers was seven, and he completed his schooling before obtaining work as an undertaker in Adelaide. He enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in early 1916, and joined the **43rd Battalion**. His unit deployed to the Western Front in France and Belgium in late December. After a bout of illness, Weathers returned to his battalion in time to take part in the Battle of Messines in June 1917, during which he was wounded. Evacuated to the United Kingdom, he re-joined his unit in early December.



Promoted to lance corporal in March 1918, Weathers fought with his battalion during the German spring offensive, but was gassed in May and did not return to his unit until the following month.

He participated in the Battle of Hamel in July, the Battle of Amiens in August, and the Battle of Mont Saint-Quentin in September. At Mont Saint-Quentin he was recommended for the award of the Victoria Cross. Promoted to temporary corporal, he was mortally wounded in the head by a shell on 29 September during the Battle of St Quentin Canal, and died soon after, unaware that he was to receive the Victoria Cross, which was not announced until late December. Until 2016, his Victoria Cross was in private hands, but in that year it was purchased at auction and donated to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, where it is displayed in the Hall of Valour.



Lawrence Carthage Weathers was born in Te Kōpuru, near Dargaville, New Zealand, on 14 May 1890, one of eight children of John Joseph Weathers, a pastoralist, and his wife Ellen Frances Johanna née McCormack. Both his parents were from Adelaide, South Australia, and the family returned there when he was seven years old. They settled in the rural mid-north of the state and Weathers attended Snowtown Public School. After leaving school, in 1909 he and two of his brothers trav-

### ITEMS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH

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# LCPL Lawrence Weathers VC

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elled to Europe and America, including a four-month stay in England. Having spent two years away, he returned to Australia and worked as a horse handler, coachman, and as an undertaker in Adelaide.<sup>1</sup> On 10 September 1913, he married Annie Elizabeth "Tess" Watson of Unley. The couple lived in the suburbs of Yatala and Parkside, and had two children. Weathers' elder brother Thomas enlisted to serve in World War I and died of wounds during the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915, while serving with the 9th Light Horse Regiment. His younger brother Joseph also enlisted, but was discharged at his own request before leaving Australia.

On 8 February 1916, Weathers enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), and was initially allocated as a reinforcement to the 10th Battalion. In June, he was



Casualty Clearing Station at Messines in June 1917

transferred to the 43rd Battalion, part of the 11th Brigade, 3rd Division. The 43rd Battalion embarked on HMAT A19 (formerly *SS Afric*) in June 1916, and after a brief stop in the Middle East and transit through France, spent the rest of the year training at Larkhill on the Salisbury Plain in southern England.

The 3rd Division embarked for the Western Front in November, and entered the trenches for the first time in late December. Weathers reported sick in late January 1917, and did not rejoin his unit until late April. He returned to the front lines in time to participate in the first major action his battalion saw in the war, the Battle of Messines, during which the 43rd Battalion incurred 122 casualties in a night-time operation to capture the final objective, the Oosttaverne Line.

One of those casualties was Weathers, who suffered a gunshot wound to the leg on 10 June. Evacuated to hospital in the United Kingdom, he did not return to his unit until early December. The 3rd Division spent the winter of 1917–1918 rotating through the front lines in the Messines sector of the Flanders region of Belgium, largely improving the trenches against an expected German offensive in the spring.

Weathers was promoted to lance corporal on 21 March 1918, and a week later his battalion helped blunt the German spring offensive, taking up defensive positions between the Ancre and the Somme rivers west of Morlancourt. In late May he required medical treatment following a gas attack near Villers-Bretonneux that caused 230 casualties among the 43rd, and Weathers did not return to duty until mid-June.

The 43rd Battalion's next major action was the highly successful Battle of Hamel on 4 July. The battalion was



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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# LCPL Lawrence Weathers VC 43 Bn

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responsible for clearing the village itself and suffered 97 casualties. The 43rd played a supporting role in the first phase of the Battle of Amiens on 8 August, which marked the beginning of the Hundred Days Offensive to drive the Germans back to the Hindenburg Line of fortifications. This included fighting west of Suzanne on 25–26 August. On 2 September, during the Battle of Mont Saint-Quentin, the 43rd Battalion was tasked with clearing trenches north of the village of Allaines. It captured Graz Trench opposite Allaines without a fight, then using hand grenades (known as bombs), fought northwards towards Scutari Trench, and succeeded in containing about 150 Germans at a fork in the trench. Faced with a deluge of German fire, the troops halted and a deadlock ensued, which was broken by Weathers, supported by three other men. His actions on that day resulted in a recommendation for the award of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry in battle that could be awarded to a member of the Australian armed forces at the time. The citation read:

*For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 2nd of September 1918, north of Peronne, when with an advanced bombing party. The attack having been held up by a strongly-held trench, Corporal Weathers went forward alone, under heavy fire, and attacked the enemy with bombs. Then, returning to our lines for a further supply of bombs, he again went forward with three comrades and attacked under very heavy fire. Regardless of personal danger, he mounted the enemy parapet and bombed the trench, and, with the support of his comrades, captured 180 prisoners and three machine guns. His valour and determination resulted in the successful capture of the final objective, and saved the lives of many of his comrades.*

When Weathers returned to his comrades, his uniform was covered in mud, he had blood running down his face, and he had five days' stubble on his chin. He was also festooned "like a Christmas tree" with looted German binoculars and pistols. Full of nervous tension, he chattered to his mates about how he had "put the wind up" the Germans. During the Battle of Mont Saint-Quentin, the 43rd Battalion suffered 67 casualties. Over the next week, the 11th Brigade was part of the pursuit of the Germans to the main Hindenburg Line. Weathers was promoted to temporary corporal on 10 September.

On 29 September, the 3rd Division was part of the Battle of St Quentin Canal one of the last Australian ground actions of the war, which involved breaching the Beaulieu Line, the third line of defences of the Hindenburg Line. During the battle, the 43rd Battalion was sheltering in a trench when a shell burst among a small group of men, wounding Weathers in the head. He died soon after, not knowing he would receive the Victoria Cross, which was gazetted on 24 December 1918. The same shell killed his uncle, Lance Corporal J. J. Weathers.

Weathers was buried at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuile. Until 2016, his Victoria Cross was in private hands, but in that year it was put up for auction in Sydney, fetching a world record price for an individual medal. Late that year it was donated to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, where it is now displayed in the Hall of Valour.

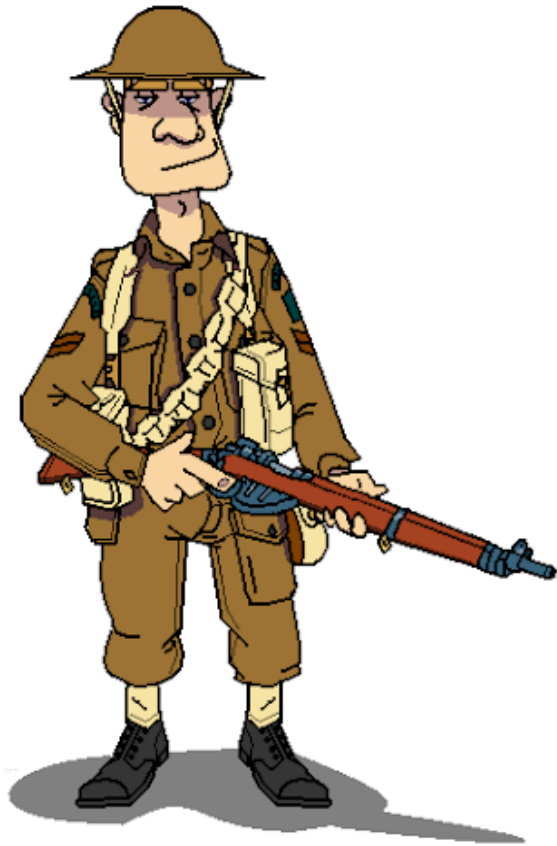
## The 43rd Battalion

The **43rd Battalion** was an Australian Army infantry unit that was originally formed during the First World War as part of the all-Raised in early 1916, the battalion the Western Front from late 1916 1918. After the war, the 43rd was re-ustralia, serving until 1930 when it was the Second World War, the 43rd was



but did not see action before it was disbanded. After the war, the 43rd and 48th were once again merged, existing until 1960 when they became part of the Royal South Australia Regiment.

volunteer Australian Imperial Force. subsequently fought in the trenches of until the end of the war in November raised as a part-time unit in South Aus-merged with the 48th Battalion. During briefly re-raised between 1942 and 1944,



## Corporal Numbnutz Funnies.

Did you hear about  
the restaurant  
on the moon?

Great food,  
no atmosphere.

**My Kid:** I feel like you're always making up rules and stuff.

**Me:** Like what?

**My Kid:** Like if I don't clean my room a portal will open and take me to another dimension.

**Me:** Well that's what happened to your older brother.

**My Kid:** What older brother?

**Me:** Exactly.

OLDTIMERS

Why don't they put more money in ATM's! This is the fifth ATM I've been to in the last week that had "insufficient funds"!!!

Hmmm, wonder why? 😊

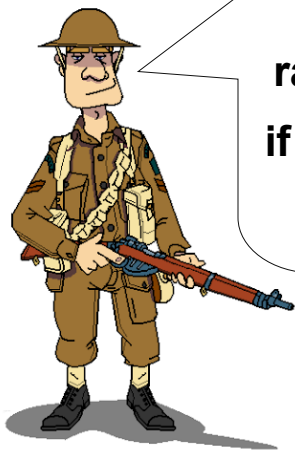
# Hunting Dog



# For Sale

Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40 minute Flute Solo.



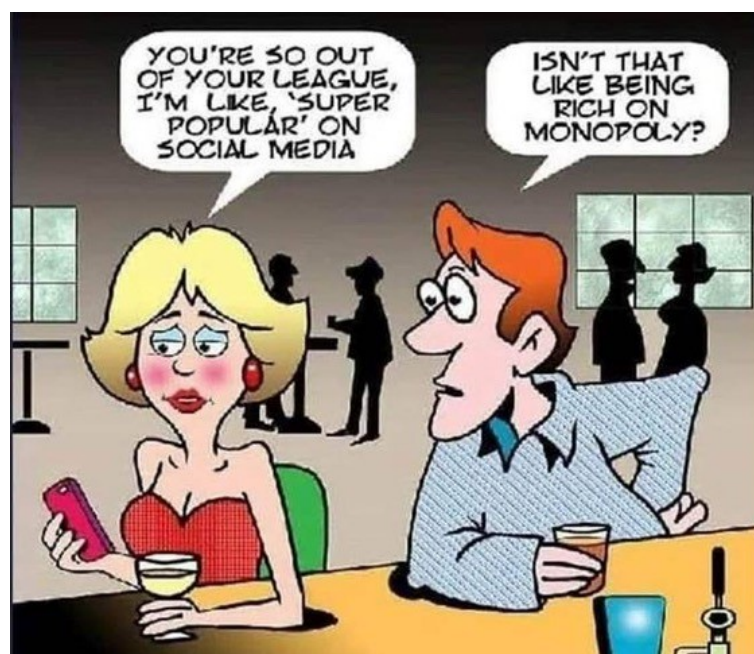


My Mum didn't  
raise a dummy, but  
if she did, it was my  
brother!



**I JUST POSTED  
A SELFIE AND  
PEOPLE TOLD  
ME TO GET  
WELL SOON!**

**YOU KNOW YOU'RE  
GETTING OLD WHEN YOU  
BARELY DO ANYTHING  
ALL DAY, BUT STILL  
NEED TO HAVE A NAP  
TO CONTINUE TO DO  
BARELY ANYTHING.**



**I will be posting  
telepathically today.  
So if you think of  
something funny,  
that was me.**





Every day I look at someone and think "Why has no one hit you with a shovel yet?"

Wife: "Can you stop yawning when I'm talking to you?"

Husband: "I'm not yawning, I'm trying to say something!"

**Amazon just got approved for drone delivery. We now have skeet shooting with prizes.**

Just bought a log cabin home from Ikea



**HOW CRAZY IS THIS**

**I JUST TRIED TO MAKE MY OWN HAND SANITIZER, AND IT CAME OUT AS A RUM & COKE**



In case you didn't notice, I'm wearing the same dress!!...

# EDITORIAL

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**A**ugust 18th has come and gone again, with our Vietnam Veterans having the opportunity to commemorate their service in Vietnam and the loss of 500 of their mates. It's not only those veterans who should be reflecting on that service and sacrifice, but every Australian who currently languishes in the democratic life fought for by those brave souls. Some went willingly, while others had to be conscripted and went anyway. Regardless, your country thanks you.

**T**he article about Major Felix Fazekas MC had many sending in their own experiences with "The Cat," and one such story is included later in this issue. Old mate Phil Brookes, from sunny (yet wet) Queensland recounts his memorable moments with Felix, which will stir the memories of even more. If you have such a story, send it in!

**I**n this issue we start a new segment called "**Some Gave All**". The phrase "all gave some; some gave all" is widely attributed to the Korean War veteran Howard William Osterkamp, who served in the US Army from 1951 to 1953, during which he experienced heavy combat in Korea with his unit, C Company, 5th Regimental Combat Team. The new articles will contain stories of some of our bravest (and sometimes unrecognised) soldiers from not only the Royal South Australia Regiment, but other Australian military units. A small taste can be found on Page 11, where we feature a story sent in by member Norm Tregenza of a former 27 RSAR mate, CPL David Yates, who went on to serve in the Regular Army in South Vietnam, I'm sure you'll enjoy Norm's story of his mate and his bravery.

**F**inally, I know I keep harping on about looking after your mates, but it's an issue really close to my heart! I reckon I make at least half a dozen calls every week just to check up on mates and see how they're doing. And that doesn't include the calls nearly every day back and forth between myself and Beamsey! I also receive calls from mates for chats and so forth, and it makes me feel good to think they think they're doing good by phoning me! And they are! What goes around, comes around, and usually within an hour of receiving my own call, I'll be on the phone to another mate asking "...and how are you, mate?" You should try it yourself, and if you run out of mates to call, my number is below.

R U OK mate?

That's what I think, anyway!

*David Laing* - Editor

0407 791 822



## Contact Us

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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 following  
Bendigo Bank account:**

**RSAR Association Inc  
BSB 633 000  
Acc. 1616 585 88**

**Cheques etc can be mailed to**

**The Treasurer  
Christian Bennett  
RSAR Association  
5 Ashwin Parade  
Torrensville SA 5031**

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



# MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

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RSARA Regimental  
Tie

\$25

RSARA Lapel  
Badge

\$15

RSAR Nameplate  
\$25



Above items all attract a \$6 postage fee

Stubby Holder

\$6 each plus \$2 postage



CAP \$15



POLO TOP

**\*ONLY \$45**

Laser engraved timber shield with  
RSAR Logo and engraved Brass Plaque  
with your Regimental details

**\*ONLY \$45**

\*Both items attract a \$10 postage charge unless picked up.

# Memories of Felix Fazekas

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By Phil Brookes

Most of us know the Canungra Jungle Training Centre, now the Land Warfare Centre, where units and individuals heading to South Vietnam during that war undertook the two week battle efficiency (BE) course.

In the 1960's there were two particular instructors who many old Vietnam Veterans would remember, both Captains; Stan "Crazy Horse" Krasnoff and Felix Fazekas. Krasnoff was a tall, imposing Russian and Fazekas a nuggety Hungarian. Both served with the AATTV where Fazekas was awarded the Military Cross, both later served in 3 RAR Woodside, Krasnoff as the CO and Fazekas the 2IC.



Back to Canungra. A certain infantry unit was given short leave in the first week of their BE course, not a good idea. Before leaving Canungra they were told to behave themselves and uphold the good name of their unit. The Diggers

never thought of their unit as having a good name. The lecherous, soldiery descended on the Surfers Paradise beer garden and proceeded to play up, with one soldier disrobing and undertaking the *dance of the flaming arseholes* on the bar. The locals didn't take kindly to this and asked the soldiers to desist, the response from the Diggers was "*go ye forth and multiply*", whereupon World War 3 broke out, excellent training for clearing out the bars in Vung Tau.

The Monday morning parade resembled a casualty clearing station. Captain Fazekas took the parade and eyed the broken and battered Diggers. I might add that Felix had a very strong European accent; he was virtually unintelligible when angry and agitated, which was probably most of the time. He yelled at the parading Diggers "Who the filthy svine that do ze dance of the flaming arsehole at Surfers Paradise". No movement in the ranks. Felix "You zink I know nothing, but I know f....all.

End of parade.

*Editors note: I recall in about 1975 Defence closed down the Alberton Depot and the soldiers of A Company moved to Torrens Training Depot and became the Signals Platoon 10 RSAR. The Commanding Officer was LTCOL Doug Creten, and I was allocated as his personal Signaller. A new 2IC had just been posted in, and this mans reputation preceded him. He was Major Felix Fazekas, and he was feared not only by the enemy, he was feared by his own soldiers! Being alongside the CO meant I was also alongside the 2IC, and I learned very quickly to stay quiet and learn. Major Fazekas leaned into the back of our Landrover where I was nursing the radio and said very quietly "I vill tell ze driver where to go, but if ve get lost, we are not lost until I say ve are f..king lost!"*



# Change to Members Fees

The Minutes of the 2022 AGM can be read by going to the Association website at [www.rsara.asn](http://www.rsara.asn). A number of important changes were made to the way we operate, including changes to our Annual Fees for the first time since the inception of the RSAR Association in 2008. These include:

1. Annual Fees rise to \$30 for Full members and \$15 for Associate Members.
2. Paid Life Memberships rise to \$300 and \$150 for Paid Life Associate Members.
3. Capping of total numbers of Paid Life Memberships to 50
4. When available, Paid Life Memberships will be \$300 and \$150 for Associate Life Members. All members will be advised when a vacancy becomes available, and offers will be on a first come, first served basis.
5. The Annual Fees for Serving Members are unchanged. That is, FREE for the first year and \$10 for every year thereafter whilst still serving, then reverts to Full Member for \$30 per year on discharge.

Since the AGM some members have renewed their membership at the old rate. Can you please ensure that you are conversant with the new rates, and bring your membership up to date.

The New Membership Application Form can be found on the last page of this edition. Please save it and destroy any older forms. It is anticipated there will be no further changes to the Membership Fees this decade.

The question was also asked of members at the AGM. "Would you like to attend more luncheons at the Avoca, but without the officialdom or guest speakers?" The answer was a resounding YES, so I ask you now to let me know your thoughts as well. Just drop me an email to [davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com) saying you're in favour of luncheons and I'll get planning on your behalf.

The first lunch will probably be at the Avoca in March 2023 at midday, so let me know and I'll book a room.

The RSAR Association is "of the Members, for the Members", and we support the serving battalion wherever and whenever we can.

# Some Gave All



NEW

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**CPL David Yates** by Norm Tregenza

David served as a private soldier in 27 Battalion RSAR during the late 1960's at both Hampstead Barracks and Smithfield Depots. He left 27 Battalion to join the regular full time army as soon as he was able to sign himself into it. He subsequently served as a Signaller in D Company, 12 Platoon, 5RAR, South Vietnam in 1969. During his tour of duty he was severely injured in action during Operation Esso and was subject to an immediate medivac flight from the battleground and then returned to Australia without delay for further treatment. After a time in hospital and rehabilitation was subsequently posted back to 27 Battalion as a member of the Cadre Staff. David passed away in April 2018 and is buried in the Returned Services Section at Enfield Memorial Park Cemetery.

**David YATES**, Army No 447852, served as a private soldier in the 27th Battalion Royal South Australia Regiment between 1966 - 1968 before signing on as a volunteer in the Australian Regular Army. His character was unquestionable and he conducted himself admirably as both a soldier and a citizen. He was a reliable person who I was proud to be associated with and he held the principles of honesty, integrity and good humour. He was befriended by all that met him because of his good hearted and genuine nature. After Corp training in the regular army as a Signaller he was attached to **D Company, 12 Platoon, 5RAR**, was promoted to the rank Lance Corporal and served in South Vietnam.

During **Operation Esso** in July 1969 he was severely injured along with twenty three others in addition to two KIA when a soldier stepped on a M16 mine. (See attached Original Incident Report) He served his Country in Vietnam and made a very significant contribution to evacuating the dead and wounded from the field of battle on that occasion, despite being very severely injured himself. He took a major part in calling in Dust Off helicopters and directing them to the victims of the mine explosion. Unfortunately his efforts were not subject to a field report and therefore went unnoticed militarily and officially.

**Lance Corporal David YATES** was returned to Australia immediately with ten others because of the seriousness of his wounds, after hospitalisation and rehabilitation he was posted back to 27th Battalion as a member of the Cadre Staff. The terrifying experience in Vietnam took its toll on this man and on his health finally qualifying him as a TPI Veteran. Unfortunately,

I lost contact with him for a considerable time and started my search in 2010, I finally found him on 13th Dec 2021, although the outcome was sad at least the story of this remarkable man was now completed.

Rest in Peace David, you are not forgotten and neither are the remarkable feats you performed while serving your country, severely injured and under battle conditions.

*Norm Tregenza*



## Original Incident Report

Soldier stepped on a mine M16. 1 more found within 10m. YS489584: AT THE LOC STATED, 2 AUST KIA AND 24 AUST WIA, BYAN UNIDENTIFIED MINE. TWO M16 MINES WERE RECOVERED IN THE VICINITY. 2 killed, 1 died of wds and 20 wded from mine blast. The district chief had been advised 3 days earlier that D coy would be operating in the area. M16 jumped 2m and exploded. M16 found nearby had been laid in the last 2-3 days. S edge of Dat Do

## Archival Sources

# Vietnam War Service



Lance-Corporal

David YATES

Service No: 447852

Service: Army

Service Between: 8/02/1969 and 30/06/1969

Total Days: 143

Units: 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs



## THE VILLAGE OF DAT DO

AN INFANTRY PLATOON'S PERSPECTIVE

© Brian London OAM., DCM  
Both Tours

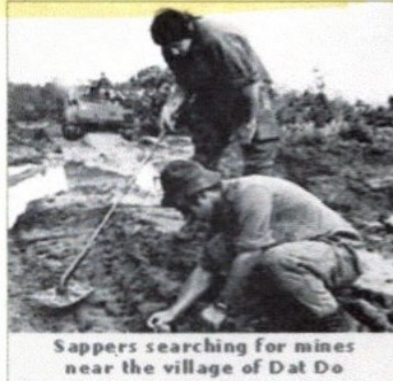


### Mine Clearing Teams searching for mines in Dat Do

The village of Dat Do located south-east of the Australian task force base was well known as an hostile VC Village. The population contained a high percentage of VC families, Viet Cong infrastructure and sympathisers willing to live in co-existence with each other. 5 RAR along with a troop of tanks from 1st Armoured Regiment, armoured personnel carriers from B Squadron 3rd Cavalry and 2 Troop 1 Field Squadron Engineers were on 'Operation Ezzo' in the Dat Do District. As part of this operation.

D. Company was allocated the task of relieving a company of 9 RAR who had concluded their operations in Dat Do Village. D. Company arrived in Dat Do by APCs and proceeded to deploy as a company in a vacant block within the village. The company commander directed his platoons to take up their positions within the defensive harbour (circular defensive position). 10 platoon led and began to deploy from 12 o'clock through to 4 o'clock, 12 platoon, commanded by Sgt. Rod Lees, began to deploy his troops from 8 to 12 o'clock. 11 Platoon was to fill in remainder of the defensive position.

It was during the harbour routine that Sgt. Lees stepped on a M16 Mine. The sound of the explosion died away leaving only the lingering pall of black and gray smoke in the air. The commander of 10 Platoon ordered his men to stay where they were and not to move. The platoon commander of 10 platoon recalls **"I moved towards Rod's position and saw at least two of his platoon were dead and most of the remainder were wounded. On reaching Rod I saw that he was so badly wounded, I gave him no chance of survival."** (Sgt. Rod Lees miraculously survived his horrendous wounds). In a single mine explosion D. Company had lost almost a complete platoon. It was later discovered that two more mines were planted in the vacant block, one had malfunctioned the second by another miracle, was not stepped on.



Sappers searching for mines  
near the village of Dat Do

On completion of the evacuation of the dead and wounded, D. Company occupied a firm base and prepared to continue the operation. The commander of 10 Platoon was given the task of ambushing in the village on night one. It is usual for the ambush commander to conduct a detailed reconnaissance of the ambush site however, this was not possible due to the certain observation by the inhabitants of the village. A drive around the village with the company commander and passing through the proposed site (a cross road) was the only reconnaissance carried out.

The other problem was being observed setting up the ambush. The only solution was to wait until after curfew and place the troops in the ambush site after dark. The platoon set out at last light and proceeded to the ambush area. On reaching the site, it was

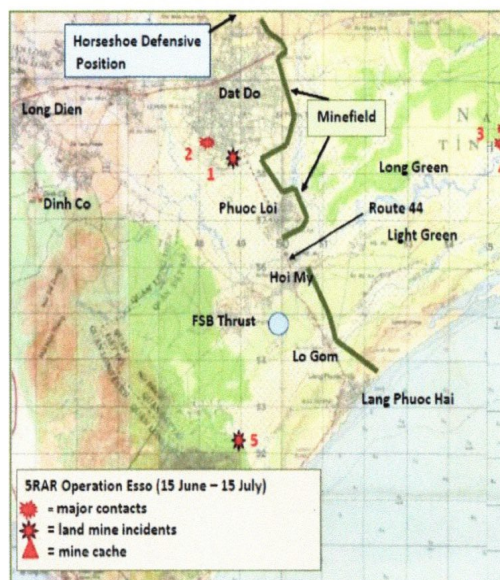


## 5RAR Operation Esso: 15 June – 15 July 1969

On 15 June 1969, 5RAR replaced 9RAR with initial company deployment as: A Company (*Maj RF Sutton*) north of Xuyen Moc to conduct rice denial operations; B Company (*Maj RE Harring*) to the Dinh Co area; C Company (*Maj CH Ducker*) west of Phuoc Loi to protect Land Clearing operations; and D Company (*Maj MP Blake*) to Dat Do to protect engineer construction tasks. The latter company was the first to suffer from mines during its deployment into Dat Do on 15 June when 12 Platoon (*Sgt RL Lees*) detonated a mine (1) killing two soldiers (*Cpl JJ Kennedy* and *Pte PJ Jackson*) and wounding 24 including three from the 105 Field Battery Forward Observer Party (*Lt JP Stevens*). One of the wounded died from his wounds that night (*Pte TC Turner*), and 11 were so seriously injured they were medevaced back to Australia (*Pte JW Billing*, *Pte WB Harpley*; *Cpl BD Heron*; *Gnr AR Johnson*; *Sgt RL Lees*; *Pte W McGillivray*; *Gnr WE Pearson*; *Pte PT Stenchion*; *Pte RM Tobin*; *Cpl AHP Weldon* and *Pte D Yates*). In effect, the platoon had been decimated by a single mine which sprayed shrapnel from some two metres high over a radius of 35 metres. It had most likely been laid by locals who were given information on D Company's deployment plans by an informant at District Headquarters. Operations for 5RAR had suddenly become very murky!

That night, and again in the early hours of the following day, 10 Platoon (*Sgt BK London*) had two contacts in an ambush near a hamlet in Dat Do (2). The first was about 10pm, when a ten-man VC porter party was allowed into the ambush to set off a flare; four enemy were killed. About five hours later six enemy returned to the ambush site and engaged the Platoon with small arms and grenades. One Australian was killed (*Pte AEL Waring*) and three wounded one seriously (*Pte AJ Dodd*). Two VC were also killed.

On 20 June, 4 Platoon (*Lt GJ Dunlop*) was redeployed to the Long Green and the following day it had three contacts with the enemy; two in the morning and one late afternoon (3) resulting in six enemy killed or wounded and three Australians seriously wounded (*Pte DJ Curnow*, *Pte BL Curtin* and *Pte RS Franklin*). Meanwhile 3 Platoon (*2Lt JR James*) had moved to an ARVN base two km east of Dat Do to support operations by 2/52 ARVN Battalion. On 25 June, the Platoon and a company from 2/52 had two contacts in an ambush (4) with ten enemy killed and wounded and one ARVN killed and eight wounded.





# PADRES PONDERINGS

By Chaplain Paul Ghanem

16

**“Build a bridge and get over it,”** is the unofficial motto of the Royal Australian Engineers (RAE). I like it!

Each year the SA Branch of the RAE celebrates the Waterloo Dinner. It is traditionally held on or about 18 June in commemoration of the first dinner held by members of the corps at Gallipoli in 1915 to celebrate the completion of Watson's Pier at Anzac Cove

At the 2022 Dinner I had the privilege of listening to SPR Robert Nitschke who had completed a tour of duty in Vietnam. I watched with amazement as he showed slide after slide of photos taken with his own camera. Not only were the photo's a never before seen snapshot of Australian Military history he also seemed to remember the names of the soldiers and the model of every piece of military hardware he had photographed along with a story to match.



On his return from Vietnam Robert settled back into Hahndorf and to his engineering career. It was only in retirement that the slow process of digitising the photos began, close to 900 in all. After recent badgering from his mates (John Karam especially) and with a little push from the Padre, Robert finally contacted the Australian War Memorial (AWM). Naturally the AWM were as excited as I was and the process of formally preserving this great archive has begun.

Why am I so excited? Why, because memory is sacred. I learnt that in theological college. Memory, be it good or bad, when celebrated appropriately brings understanding, healing, hope and change.

I wonder if you have sacred memories locked away in your closet that are yearning to be shared and honoured? If you do then could I encourage you to stop wondering what people might think (Robert honestly though the AWM might not be interested), *build a bridge, get over it and share it*. It's the sacred thing to do.

*The Padre*  
any day, any time

0408 163 257

## [Dining Grace for the Royal Australian Engineers.](#)

***“Our Heavenly Father, You are the Great Engineer of the Universe; You give us this food, to strengthen us in your service: You give us the fellowship of Sappers, amongst friendships built up over the years: You give us that strong bridge – with the past, our traditions as Royal Australian Engineers: We give you Thanks, Our Lord. Amen.”***



## 10th Australian Infantry Battalion The Adelaide Rifles

The 10th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. The battalion was recruited in South Australia, and together with the 9th, 11th and 12th Battalions, formed the 3rd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within weeks of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked for overseas just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early December.

The 3rd Brigade was the covering force for the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 and so was the first ashore at around 4:30 am. Two soldiers of the 10th Battalion, Lance Corporal Philip Robin and Private Arthur Blackburn, are believed to have penetrated further inland than any other Australians at ANZAC. Robin was killed later on 25 April and Blackburn soldiered on to be commissioned as an officer and awarded the Victoria Cross at Pozieres, the battalion's first major battle in France. The 10th Battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC position, and served there until the evacuation in December.



After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 10th Battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bitter trench warfare. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July. After Pozieres the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders before returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917, the battalion returned to Belgium to take part in the major British offensive of that year - the Third Battle of Ypres. For his valorous actions at Polygon Wood east of Ypres in September 1917, Private Roy Inwood was awarded the Victoria Cross. His brother Robert had been killed at Pozieres and another brother, Harold, had been badly wounded and invalided to Australia in November 1917.

In March and April 1918 the 10th Battalion helped stop the German spring offensive and was then involved in the operations leading up to the Allied counter-stroke. In June, during an attack near Merris in France, Corporal Phillip Davey became the third member of the battalion to be awarded the Victoria Cross. Davey had been awarded the Military Medal for bravery near Messines in January. His brothers Claude and Richard were also members of the battalion and both had been awarded Military Medals in 1917.

The battalion participated in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war".

The battalion continued operations until late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent. In November 1918, members of the AIF began returning to Australia. At 8 am on 5 September 1919, the final detachment of the 10th Battalion arrived at Adelaide, aboard the transport Taka-da.

## Walk A Mile In My Boots The Hutt St Centre



Hutt St Centre  
Walk a Mile in My Boots 2022  
10/27 Royal South Australian Regiment  
Thank you for Going the Extra Mile



Mr Chris Burns CEO of the Hutt St Centre presents a framed photo to LTCOL Sam Benveniste for the Battalions recent fundraising efforts.

Thank you to the thousands of dedicated people who stepped up to take part in Hutt St Centre's [Walk a Mile in My Boots](#) Challenge for 2022!

You braved the cold, rain and biting wind. You faced blisters, muddy boots and soggy socks. You embraced early mornings and late nights.

You rallied your friends, family and workmates to spark vital conversations about ending homelessness.

And you've raised over \$600,000 to help the more than 6,000 people experiencing homelessness in South Australia. Thank you. You are incredible!

After Challenge week, you know better than most how it feels to face the harsh winter outdoors. Sharing this experience with the people who love you is the very best way to help make a difference for people experiencing homelessness.

Thanks also to everyone who has kindly donated. And a very special thank you to our Supporting Partners, Nova 919, FIVEaa, 10 News First Adelaide and CMI Toyota for going the extra mile to ensure the Walk a Mile in My Boots Challenge is possible.

.....and from the Commanding Officer 10/27 Battalion

*Hi David,*

*I am delighted to report that the Battalion raised **\$10,745** in the "Walk a Mile in my Boots" fundraiser for the Hutt Street Centre, which was a fantastic effort, and our top individual fundraising soldier was PTE Anil Sansri, who raised an outstanding **\$2,297**.*

*I would like to thank all the members of the RSAR Association who donated and supported the fundraiser, as well as the Battalion members, family and friends who participated or donated to this very worthy cause.*

*Kind regards,*

*Sam Benveniste*

Lieutenant Colonel  
Commanding Officer  
10<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment



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



# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2023

EST  
2008

Membership Category

Date of Application / /

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Full Membership</b> \$30 (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> \$15 (Spouses & non former members of RSAR)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Life Membership (BY INVITATION ONLY)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE Member \$300 <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE LIFE Member \$150

My Details - Please print clearly

Full Name:	Postal Address:
Date of Birth:	Email:
Mobile No:	How did you hear about the Association?
Regt No. or PMKeys No.	
Period of Service / / to / /	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Serving Member of the RSAR or Sub Unit
Spouse/Partners name.	<b>PLEASE PRINT ALL DETAILS CLEARLY</b>

Method of Payment

<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque or Money Order - Payable to The Treasurer Christian Bennett RSAR Association Inc 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 <u>name</u> as an identifier								
<input type="checkbox"/> CASH (In person to the Committee)	<input type="checkbox"/> I have paid my Fees by <b>Cheque</b> to the Association Account listed below and posted to The Treasurer Christian Bennett, RSAR Association Inc, 5 Ashwin Parade Torrensville SA 5031 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Account Name:</td> <td>RSAR Association Inc</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank:</td> <td>Bendigo Bank</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BSB:</td> <td>633 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Acct #</td> <td>1616 585 88</td> </tr> </table>	Account Name:	RSAR Association Inc	Bank:	Bendigo Bank	BSB:	633 000	Acct #	1616 585 88
Account Name:	RSAR Association Inc								
Bank:	Bendigo Bank								
BSB:	633 000								
Acct #	1616 585 88								

☐ 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)