



**October
2023**

"Sitrep, Over!"

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

Patron Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing 0407 791 822

FREEDOM OF ENTRY PARADE



Co 10/27 Bn RSAR LTCOL Sam Benveniste leads the Colours of the 10th Battalion RSAR onto Parade, before marching to the Adelaide Town Hall to exercise their Freedom of Entry to the City of Adelaide.

On Saturday 12th August I was privileged along with other members of the RSAR Association and many onlookers to witness the Freedom of Entry Parade in Adelaide. Despite an early drenching shower, the soldiers, accompanied by their brilliant Band marched from Victoria Square to the Adelaide Town Hall, followed by 2 of the Battalions Bushmaster Armoured Fighting Vehicles. On what turns out to be the CO's birthday, the officers and soldiers of the Battalion performed extremely well in harsh conditions to exemplify the traditions and honour of the Royal South Australia Regiment.

More pics on Pages 8 and 9 and on our Facebook page.

Quick Picks

As I've grown older,
I've learned that
pleasing everyone
is impossible, but
pissing everyone off
is a piece of cake!

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EDITORIAL

A Freedom Of Entry Parade was carried out on 12th August by the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR to exercise their right (actually the right of the 10th Battalion) of Freedom of Entry and passage through the City of Adelaide. Attended by many onlookers despite the constant rain, the officers and soldiers of the Battalion did themselves and their Regiment proud with their exemplary dress and bearing, despite the weather. You will notice that in the top photo on Page 8, the Standard of the City Of Adelaide is flying at Half Mast, and you may ask yourself "why is this?" Well, I'll tell you. A few months ago I was reading a copy of the Purple and Blue, a definitive record of the actions and exploits of the original 2/10th Battalion AIF in WW2. In an excerpt from the journal, in a letter to the Regiment dated 19th December 1950, the then Lord Mayor of Adelaide Sir Arthur Rymill said....*"The Adelaide Rifles is and always has been, the City of Adelaide's own infantry regiment. In recognition of this, a flag bearing the Corporation Arms is dipped (lowered to half mast) whenever the unit passes the Adelaide Town Hall."* Having observed a number of FOE parades over the years I noticed the Corporation Standard was NOT dipped during this event, therefore I notified the CO and RSM who quickly took steps to ensure this matter of protocol was once again observed. And there you have it!

Des Hawkins, our Vice President and Historical Officer has sent a plea for help to find a missing trophy, the Galway Cup, last seen in March 2004. It's an important link in our regimental history, and Des would love to know its whereabouts. He doesn't necessarily want it back, if it's in a good place, but would love to have some more details about it and some photos. The story is on Page 10.

Once in a while I do a stocktake on how many newsletters I've produced over the years, and recently I did a countback. Would you believe I've sent out over **180** editions of "Sitrep, Over!" in 13 years? I guess someone must be reading them, because I get a few comments back about certain stories I've published, but I always need more inspiration and more stories from you, the readers. You know my email address. How about some stories of your days serving your country? Humorous or not!

We still have heaps of Hoodies, Stubby Holders, Regimental Ties, Lapel Badges etc for sale. We are running out of places to store them, so your purchase would make a couple of wives very happy. Details on Page 15.

Finally, a note from our Treasurer Christian Bennett. He asks that if you're paying your subs or paying for merchandise, please ensure you send your cheques etc to the PO Box located on the right side of this page.

DO NOT SEND CHEQUES OR CASH TO ANY OTHER ADDRESS, OR YOU MAY LOSE IT!

That's what I think, anyway. Enjoy the read.

David Laing

0407 791 822



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The views expressed in this newsletter
are not necessarily those of the RSAR
Association, or anybody else, actually.

CMF Observers - Vietnam

by Major Don K. Field ED (Retd)



Mon 6 Feb 67

Emplane Richmond RAAF Hercules C130. Overnight Darwin.

Tue 7 Feb 67

Deplane Vung Tau Airport South Vietnam. Task Force briefing at 1 ALSG Vung Tau. Caribou flight from Vung Tau to Nui Dat

Wed 8 Feb 67

Attached to B Coy 6 RAR, issued with jungle kit, weapons, ammo and rations. Briefing at BHQ.

Thu 9 Feb 67

Platoon 24hr patrol. Set up check point to check civilian ID Cards. That night set up and occupied an ambush position. Activity in front of ambush position but no en contact

Fri 10 Feb 67

Returned to Nui Dat 0730hrs. Check fire and service weapons. Fired M79 canister and HE, fired Claymore mine. Briefing for Coy 24hr patrol.

Sat 11 Feb 67

En had been reported operating in the area. B Coy was to carry out a Sweep & Clear operation in the Song Tow area. Left Nui Dat 0700hrs. Found bridge and hut used by en and arranged for demolition by Engineers. Found en camp with Panji Pits, documents and a quantity of rice. Set up a night ambush position including Claymore mines and trip flares. Occupied site 1900hrs. Trip flare was set off and en heard on our front but no contact.

Sun 12 Feb 67

Left ambush site 0700hrs, patrolled approx 8km to helicopter LZ. En were observed moving about our abandoned ambush site. Attempt made to register mortar fire on en but ineffective. Returned to base by helicopter, cleaned weapons and equipment, make and mend. Briefing at BHQ Tactical Operations Centre. Went with work party to Baria Township to purchase canteen supplies. Helicopter recce flight of TFAOR (Possum)

Mon 13 Feb 67

Visit to 101 Fd Bty and Engineer Unit. Left Nui Dat at 1600hrs for platoon patrol and night ambush. Set up ambush location and used the Starlight Scope infra red night telescope. Pig ran through the ambush site. Artillery Fire Tasks were fired all night on our front and at 0530hrs amplified Vietnamese voices were heard but nothing could be seen.

Tue 14 Feb 67

Returned to Nui Dat 0800hrs. Rest Day for Coy, make and mend, serviced weapons, washed clothes.

Wed 15 Feb 67

Work Party to Baria for Coy stores. Int Section briefing re M60 ammo problems and trace metal detection kits etc. TF Conference for Operation Dalby

Thu 16 Feb 67

Operation Dalby: Battalion assault on a suspected VC staging area North of Dat Do. LZ for the assault was given Arty bombardment and strafed by helicopter gunships. Landed on the LZ at first light and formed Coy RV. I was attached to Coy HQ. After moving ap-prox 400m first contact made by 5 PI B Coy with estimated 4 en. Brief fire fight one en wounded leaving a blood trail. En withdrew from a camp containing prepared bunkers including two with overhead cover. Rice, documents, medical supplies and ammo were captured. Second camp found surrounded by Panji Pits and this camp was destroyed. En observed withdrawing and mortars were used to attempt to cut off their withdrawal. Flank-ing unit (C Coy) captured 4 VC in a cave on a river bank. Coy was split up into platoon patrols with a search and destroy



CMF Observers - Vietnam

mission back to the RV for withdrawal by helicopter that evening. At Nui Dat that night isolated shots were heard on the Base perimeter.

Fri 17 Feb 67

Rest Day, make and mend, clean weapons etc. Coy put on 15 minutes stand-by for possible task as a blocking force against an estimated 2 Coys of VC. The Coy was sent out in the field whilst I had to report to BHQ to arrange my return to Australia. My requests to re-join the Coy were refused because the Coy had been fired on when landing in the LZ and was currently in contact with the en. In operations over the next 24hrs the Coy lost 2 KIA and 17 WIA (reported at that time).

Sat 18 Feb 67

Admin duties in Nui Dat including sorting and labeling clothing and equipment of killed and wounded personnel which had been returned from the battlefield.

Sun 19 Feb 67

Returned weapons, equipment and stores prior to marching out. Rest Day for Coy.

Mon 20 Feb 67

Left Vung Tau by Hercules C130 at 1300hrs.

Tue 21 Feb 67

Transit at Butterworth (Malaysia).

Wed 22 Feb 67

Transit at Butterworth (Malaysia).

Thu 23 Feb 67

Cleared Customs at Darwin and deplaned at Richmond.

Fri 24 Feb 67

Arrived Adelaide.

At Right: Don Field during the 2013
Adelaide ANZAC Day march



VIETNAM REMEMBERED – ADDENDUM

I have been back to the note books which I used in Vietnam and have compiled an addendum of those matters which left an impression on me. Some criticisms have not been included as not being all that important.

SOME IMPRESSIONS

ASLG AT VUNG TAU

A huge fenced area. About 1200 personnel and containing vast quantities of stores and equipment. The area had a very comfortable mess and other permanent buildings. I noticed a line of about 50 to 60, D6 Caterpillar Bulldozers parked in lines. At that time, the D6 was the largest bulldozer in general use in South Australia.

TF BASE AT NUIT DAT

Located in a former rubber plantation with dying foliage. Some sealed roads and permanent buildings. Scale A showers and tent accommodation protected by sand bags. There were Company Officer's and Sergeant's messes, a Company kitchen and mess which held some PX store items for sale. Rations were a combination of fresh and tinned. Movies were available from time to time.

PERSONNEL

The majority of the soldiers were National Servicemen and I had the opportunity to talk with them. Most had been in Country for about eight months and were looking forward to going home. I did not hear anyone complain about having been posted to Vietnam and morale seemed to be very high. I did not see any examples of bias or discrimination against National Servicemen by the Regular staff. The Platoon Com-

CMF Observers - Vietnam

manders, whom I assumed were National Servicemen, were well regarded and respected by their soldiers and the Regular staff.

ORTHOGRAPHIC MAPS

A combination of air photo and cadastral details laminated in waterproof material. I had never used these before and found them most beneficial in the field. I understand that these maps could be updated fairly easily.

STANDARD PROCEDURES

Stand-to and Stand-down were strictly observed including on operations. Similarly, test firing of weapons before proceeding outside the TF perimeter was enforced.

Debriefs of operations were always carried out at various levels but I did not take part in any.

Contact and other immediate action drills were executed much as I had been taught, but with some minor modifications resulting from local experience.

For night ambushes, a minimum of 30% stand-to all night was adopted and upgraded depending upon operational circumstances.

Ration, water and ammo scales were laid down for each operation.

On operations, the soldiers always seemed to have US Ration packs available. The tinned bread, individual steaks, apple pies etc. looked delicious but were heavy and very bulky and I preferred the Australian packs.

NIGHT AMBUSHES

My experience with night ambushes was a mixed bag. On the first occasion, there was activity to the front of the ambush site, but no enemy contact. On the second ambush, I used the "starlight" night vision scope for the first time whilst on sentry roster. Unfortunately, on this ambush, a trip flare was accidentally set off during the night, making any chance of a successful outcome very remote.

On the next occasion, an animal (pig?) ran through the ambush site which certainly woke everybody up, but again compromised the ambush position. Extraction next day was by helicopter, with the LZ being secured by Arty.



WEATHER

Very hot and humid, but could get chilly at night. The Province was in drought and therefore water had to be carried on the man (min of 4 bottles /man/day) Resupply was normally by helicopter with some loss of security as a result. Patrolling was very hot and exhausting. My newly issued GP Boots were very inflexible and I had to wear two pairs of socks for some comfort.

A FEW CRITICISMS

The harbor locations used for preparation of meals etc. prior to moving into an ambush position, seemed to me, on some occasions, to be far too close to the ambush site. In one instance, this was only 50 metres or so. On the same subject, there did not seem to be any restrictions on smoking or cooking in the

CMF Observers - Vietnam

harbor.

Field hygiene, in some instances, was a fairly half-hearted effort. When I questioned the extent of bash, burn and bury, I was assured that the existing method was the norm as the locals generally dug up dump sites when vacated by the Australians.

SWEEP AND CLEAR

On a Company sized sweep and clear operation, we came across a camp of enemy bunkers with camouflaged Panji pits located on the approaches. These Panji pits were precisely constructed and deadly. Four of the bunkers were solidly constructed with over-head cover. We recovered a quantity of rice, ammunition and some documents. I wondered just how many staging/resupply posts like this were located throughout the Task Force area of responsibility.

SEARCH AND DESTROY

As a result of intelligence reports of enemy activities of up to squad size north of Dat Do, the Battalion was ordered to undertake a search and destroy operation in the area.

On this operation, I was travelling with B Coy HQ, the leading Company. 5 Platoon, our point platoon, contacted approx, 4 Viet Cong and a fire fight ensued. At least one of the enemy was wounded and they beat a hasty retreat dragging their wounded and leaving a heavy blood trail.

We followed closely behind 5 Pl and I was surprised at the vivid contrast between the blood trail and the green foliage. We subsequently lost the trail. Later on in this operation we located an enemy camp, some bunkers with overhead cover and with camouflaged panji pits on the approaches. We located a quantity of rice, some tools and documents.

This was the largest operation I was involved in and certainly the most spectacular. Our forces were inserted and extracted by helicopter, with the insertion and extraction being supported by artillery and helicopter gunships using rockets and machineguns in a close support role. A very noisy and dusty procedure but one which got the adrenalin flowing.

SORTING AND LABELLING EQUIPMENT OF WOUNDED PERSONNEL

I assisted with this most unpleasant task and one which demonstrated the damage which could be done by small arms weapons.

MY HOST COMPANY, B COY 6RAR

The OC, MAJ McKay, 2IC, CAPT Stevenson, Platoon Commanders, LT J Sullivan, LT J O'Halloran, LT Short, CSM, WO2 K Davison and CQMS J McDonald kindly assisted me in various ways.

I am most appreciative of the assistance and guidance given to me by the experienced Coy Sergeants Henry Chisholm, Max Smith, Merv McCulloch and Butch Brady, who were always ready to share their time and knowledge with me and to answer my never ending questions.

APPRECIATION

I am very grateful to the Army for making my visit possible. I certainly learned a great deal from the experience.

Finally, I appreciate the efforts made by CAPT Barrie Newman, MAJ Geoff Lawrie and CAPT Ron Pearson in collecting, collating and publishing "Vietnam Remembered"

MAJ D K Field (Retd)

[Editors Note: Major Don Field ED \(Retd\) passed away on 18th March 2019. His funeral service was attended by family and friends and many members of the RSAR Association, all mates of Don's. RIP.](#)

Letters to the Editor

Hi David

Your editorial on 1 Armoured Regiment was interesting, particularly negative comments from media commentators and some of the good burgers of Adelaide.

Being an expat Adelaidean in Queensland it's interesting to note the difference of each State toward the Defence Forces. I left Adelaide in 1967 to join the ARA and after recruit and corps training in NSW served in Vietnam. My first posting after Vietnam was at Enoggera, a rather large military establishment in Brisbane; a couple of infantry battalions, artillery, armoured, engineers and supporting services and paraphernalia that goes with a large garrison; there was plenty of military activity. I recall being invited to local homes, the hospitality was phenomenal, even though we sometimes played up at the local pubs we were respected and welcome. The constabulary kept an eye on us and generally kept us out of trouble; remember this was the late 60's early 70's, so life was a little more laid back.

I was posted to Adelaide in 1974, back home at last after seven years, beauty I thought. What a shock, no real interest in the Defence Force, particularly the Army. 3 RAR was forgotten at Woodside in sub-standard accommodation, as were the married quarters at Woodside, Smithfield and Gilles Plains. We froze in an asbestos lined semi-detached shack in winter and boiled in summer. In 1976, it was back to Brisbane where a military parade would be a special occasion for the locals. Exercises in Queensland were great opportunities to showcase the Army, and the locals loved us. I recall overnighing in many bush showgrounds on a straw paliase after the townsfolk, station owners, boundary riders and sundry bushrangers had put on a BBQ and dance for the Diggers. The recent Talisman Sabre exercise has further established the close bond between the Army and Queenslanders, particularly in Ingham, where both 2DIV, US National Guard and regular units interacted positively with townsfolk. I've not seen that in SA, even though there is a large military component at Edinburgh.

Is it that Defence in SA is seen as an encumbrance that doesn't deserve respect as the local eminences quaff their Henshke Pinot Gris over Coffin Bay oysters and pontificate on the lecherous soldiery who dare to spoil their oh so bucolic city.

Amen to that.

Cheers

Phil Brookes

QLD

Hi David

I attended a graveside vigil on 3/8/2023 for LCPL Rick Abraham who was KIA in Vietnam on 6/7/1969 John England from 9 RAR lead a short service. The photos below are myself, John and Peter Abraham, Ricks brother.

Myself and Rod Beames were in the catafalque party at his funeral in Whyalla.

It was a privilege to attend this service to show ongoing respect and appreciation for his service to our country.

Regards

Ian Carpenter

Hawker SA







The Galway Cup -MISSING

Sadly it looks as though another piece of our Regimental History has inexplicably disappeared.

While progressively working through old RSAR Historical Collection ledgers, I came across an entry recorded as the Galway Cup.

According to records this trophy was last seen at the Army Museum on the 27th. March 2004.

Enquires with present museum curator Wayne Birch and the Medals curator Kev. Draper, who have been at the museum much longer than I, have no recollection of it.

There appears to be no general written information for the cup on file and so would certainly appreciate any members input on its history.

A search of newspaper articles on the Trove website indicates that it was presented to the 27th Battalion SA Scottish Regiment at Torrens Parade Ground on Monday 7th Nov. 1949, which apparently was its first ceremonial parade since the end of World War 2. The cup is of Georgian design and has a lid. On one side is the 27th battalion badge, a rising sun with a stag's head on top.

The only photos I have don't do it justice, however I can just make out the small engraved plate on its base which reads: -"presented by the club for award to the most efficient company in battle craft. The presentation was made by Lieut. Col. Alex Pope, who was CO of 2/27 Battalion.

However I believe the trophy has a much longer history dating back to when the cup was originally presented to the 'Regiment by former S.A. Governor Sir Henry Galway an honorary Col. of the Regiment and it was in memory of the regiment's magnificent battle records.

I have approached Keith Harrison RSLSA who has kindly agreed to put my request on their website.

Hoping to hear back from Paul Longstaff and Ian Carnachan regarding same.

I may be going over old ground but I believe Jeff Ayles may have tried to pursue this a long time ago.

One other course of action is to contact the Sunday mail's what's your problem, and hope that after so many years whoever has possession of the trophy may have become careless.

Will report any developments

Des Hawkins.

Editors Note: We had a call from a bloke down Mt Gambier way saying he thought the Cup was in the "Boozer" at the depot. On checking, it wasn't! Still looking!



Colour Sergeant Bournes' Humour



I never finish anything I start! I have a Black Belt in Partial Arts!



The above is a genuine advertisement from the 1940's when WD40 was first produced. Really??





Every time you
clean something,
you just make
something else
dirty.

THE DEVIL
WHISPERED TO ME,
"I'M COMING
FOR YOU."

I WHISPERED
BACK,
"BRING PIZZA."

@ChristopherFerry



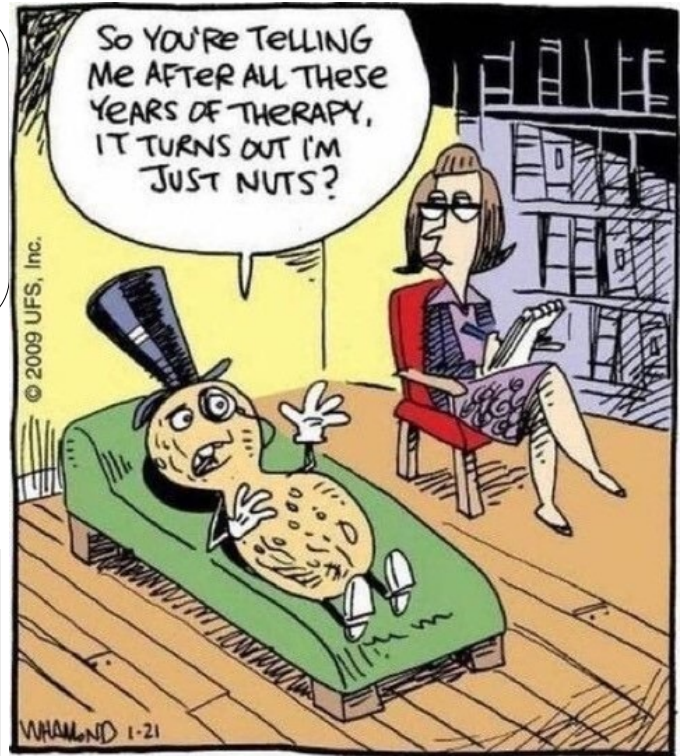
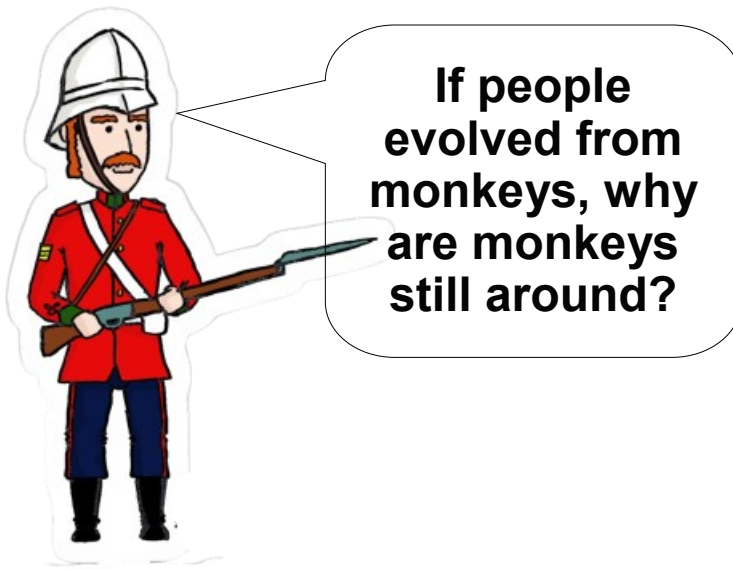
DAILYSQUAT.COM

Circuses struggling to find new clowns as top prospects continue to go into politics

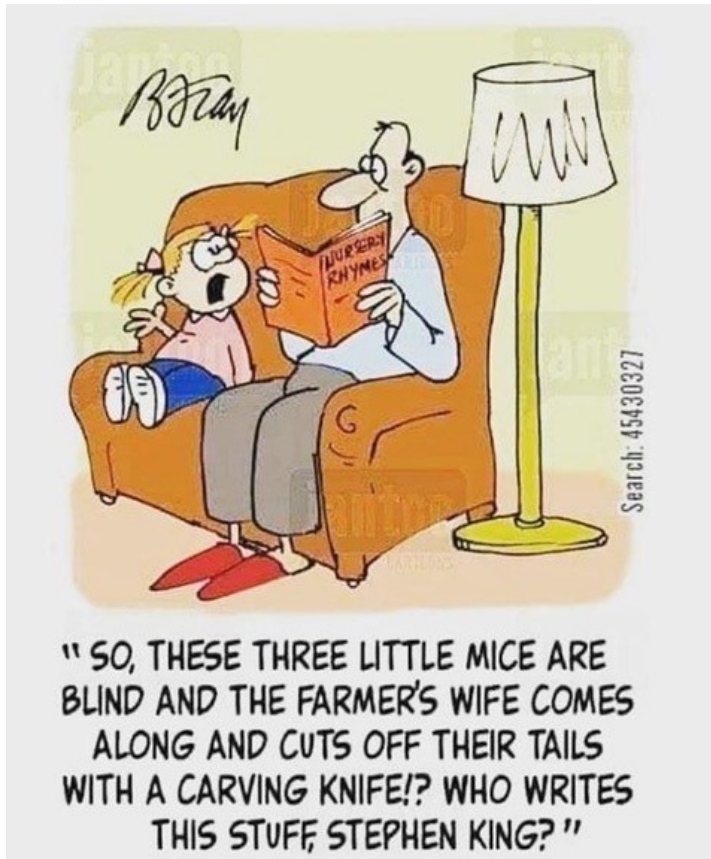


Some days
I amaze myself.

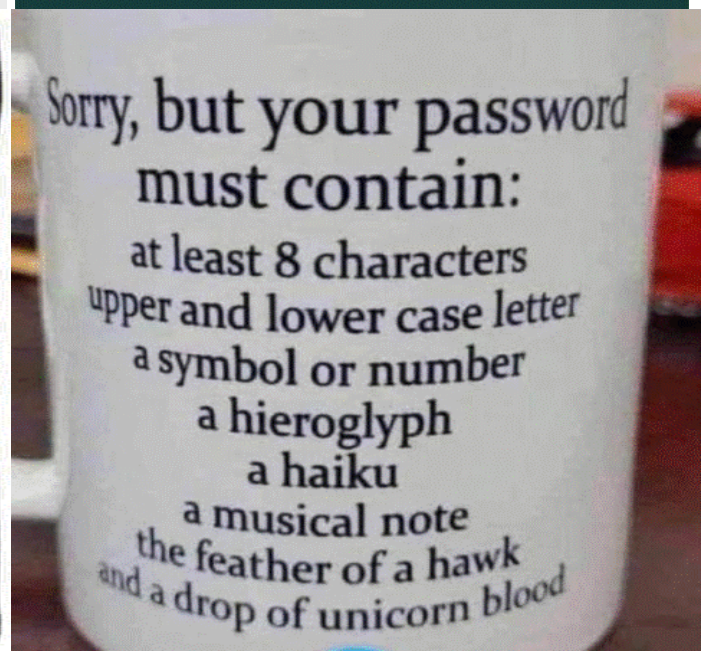
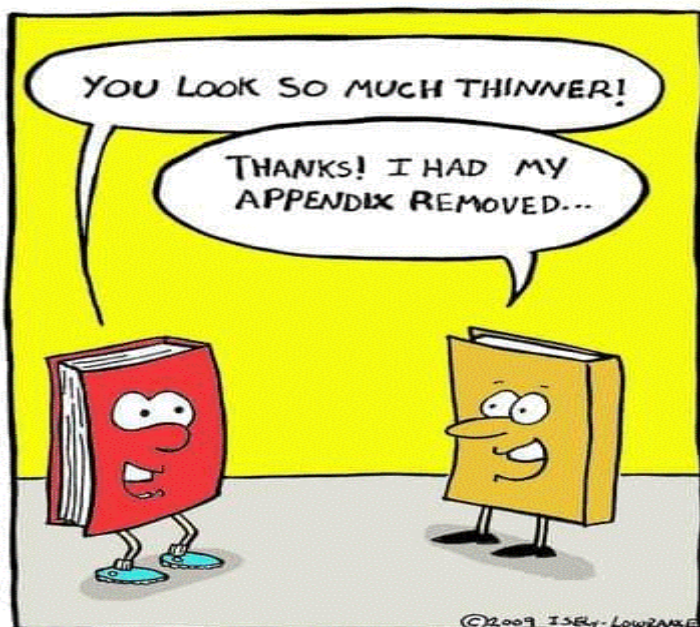
Other days, I put my
keys in the fridge.



I FOUND A BOOK CALLED
HOW TO SOLVE 50% OF
YOUR PROBLEMS. SO, I
BOUGHT TWO.



"SO, THESE THREE LITTLE MICE ARE
BLIND AND THE FARMER'S WIFE COMES
ALONG AND CUTS OFF THEIR TAILS
WITH A CARVING KNIFE!? WHO WRITES
THIS STUFF, STEPHEN KING?"



**NOT TO BE
MISSED**

10th/27th BATTALION BAND

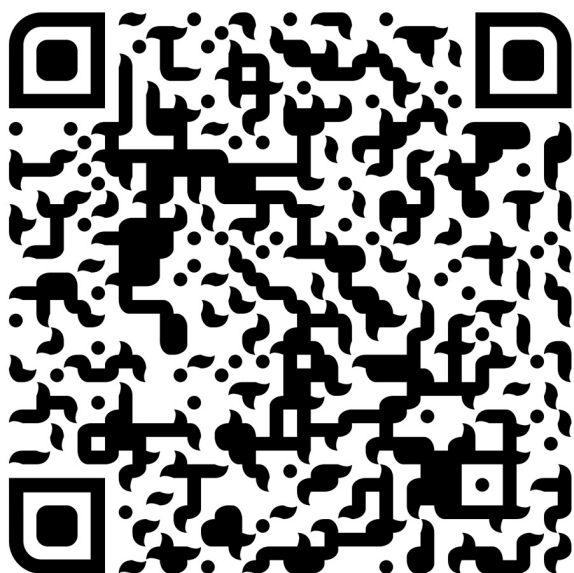
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RSAR ASSOCIATION INC

End of Year Lunch



All Members of the RSAR Association, Serving
Members of 10/27 Bn Battle Group and their families are
invited to

THE END OF YEAR LUNCH

Sunday 17th December 2023

Keswick Barracks

Roy Inwood VC Club

1100 - 1500 hrs

All cold meat and salads provided
FREE of charge

Drinks available at Bar Prices

Reservations definitely required.

Contact David Laing on 0407 791 822 or
davidlaing49@bigpond.com for catering purposes

NLT Friday 8th December



PADRES PONDERINGS

By Chaplain Paul Ghanem OFM

The Padre Ponders the upcoming Referendum

The Australian Indigenous Voice referendum will be held on 14 October 2023.

On hearing this news I decided to educate myself on our First Nations people and their place and history in the ADF. Google, I did.

This is what I found:

3,159 (3.7 per cent) of currently serving Australian Defence Force members, and 11,610 (2.3 per cent) of previously served, identify as having Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, which is almost double the national average.

At first, racist regulations prevented First Nations people from joining the army. Restrictions were relaxed in 1917 because the British Empire needed reinforcements.

Researchers have noted that once in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), Aboriginal soldiers were treated as equals, paid the same as other soldiers, and generally accepted without prejudice. But, after returning home after the First World War, Aboriginal ex-servicemen received little public or private support. They were denied access to soldier settlement schemes.

Of the 1 million Australians who served in Australia and overseas during World War II, we estimate that up to 3000, perhaps more, were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples. Important contributions to Australia's war effort by Indigenous Australians included: military service overseas in all theatres of the war.

Though not included in the 'National Lottery' at least 300 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples volunteered to fight in the Vietnam War.

The ADF, and dating back to the AIF, has had a distinguished history of treating First Nations People with dignity. They came from a section of society with few rights, low wages, and poor living conditions. Most Indigenous Australians could not vote and none were counted in the census. But once in the AIF, they were paid the same as other soldiers and generally accepted without prejudice.

The 5 leading causes of death for Indigenous Australians were coronary heart disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer and suicide. Diabetes and suicide were not among the 5 leading causes of death for non-Indigenous Australians

On the ADF careers site it states: *The Australian Defence Force is committed to reconciliation and recognises the traditional owners of the lands, seas, and skies we defend.*

These facts should not be forgotten as we head towards 14 October.

The Padre

... any day, any time

0408 163 257



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Moore	Terry	Harrison	Keith		
Moore	Thomas	Harrison	Nigel		
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Stewart	Robin	Hudson	Rick	Laing	June
Stewien	Peter	Hume	Matthew	Phillips	Heather
Vella	Joe	Humphrys	Jesse	Sanderson	Lorraine
Waters	Ian	Jones	Brett	Tregenza	Lyn
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Westover	Rhys	Lewis	James		
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		McKenzie	Kain	Dunn	Trish
		Migali	Michael	Hudson	Margaret
		Mitchell	Barry	Johnson	Margaret
		Morony	Frank	Parsonage	Yvonne
		Mulroney	Dennis	Pollard	Kay
		Normandale	Zachary	Toy	Jill
		Oakley	Andrew	Winger	Kathleen
		O'Daly	Ryan		
		Orrock	Alan		
		Parslow	Howard		
		Parsonage	James		
		Pascoe	Michael		
		Payne	Bob		
		Pexton	Timothy		
		Phillips	Colin Rex		