# "SITREP, OVER!"

Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc Patron - Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD Editor David Laing 04

## Laing 0407 791 822

#### September 2021

# September 1st

# **1939**

Hitler's invasion of Poland in **September 1939** drove Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany, marking the beginning of World War II. Over the next six years, the conflict would take more lives and destroy more land and property around the globe than any previous war. Among the estimated 45-60 million people killed were 6 million Jews murdered in Nazi concentration camps as part of Hitler's diabolical "Final Solution," now known as the Holocaust.



In late August 1939, Hitler and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin signed the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact, which incited a frenzy of worry in London and Paris. Hitler had long planned an invasion of Poland, a nation to which Great Britain and France had guaranteed military support if it were attacked by Germany. The pact with Stalin meant that Hitler would not face a war on two fronts once he invaded Poland, and would have Soviet assistance in conquering and dividing the nation itself. On September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland from the west; two days later, France and Britain declared war on Germany, beginning World War II.



#### ITEMS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH

- WW2 starts Page 2 Definition of a VETERAN
  - Page 3,4,& 5
- CPL Numbnutz Page 6,7 & 8
- Editorial / Contact Us Page 9
  - Letters to the Editor
    - Page 10, 11, 12 & 13
- Application to Join Page 14

Yearly Subs are due on or shortly after the Annual General Meeting.

If you haven't paid this year, please do so ASAP.

You can contact the Treasurer Christian Bennett via the details on Page 16.

For those who have already paid, thank you.

On September 17, Soviet troops invaded Poland from the east. Under attack from both sides, Poland fell quickly, and by early 1940 Germany and the Soviet Union had divided control over the nation, according to a secret protocol appended to the Nonaggression Pact. Stalin's forces then moved to occupy the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) and defeated a resistant Finland in the Russo-Finish War. During the six months following the invasion of Poland, the lack of action on the part of Germany and the Allies in the west led to talk in the news media of a "phony war." At sea, however, the British and German navies faced off in heated battle, and lethal German U-boat submarines struck at merchant shipping bound for Britain, sinking more than 100 vessels in the first four months of World War II.

JUNE

+ + ONE PEHNY at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

ench Admiralty an-ed yesterday that the d naval forces defend-were embarked dur-

light. port had previously been seless to the Germans. rench Navy, it was added, in the Dunkirk operations lestroyers—Jaguar, Chacal, Bourrasque, Foudroyante, and Stroeco—and the sup-Niger.

the completion of the British communious

Air Arm, took part in this op "Most of the crews of our io

#### **3** Admirals Land

er ships were dam ave already put to s addition to make to making Dunkirk port, the Allied forces material which could en the d alm stated d, Germans enter they ost nothing," French

ed, rais of the French Na ench generals arrived bast port yesterday wi s evacuated from Du travelled to London inalty and War Office

#### **254 KILLED IN** PARIS AIR RAID

ath-roll in Monday's Paris air was 254, of whom 195 were civi-and fifly-nine soldiers, says the War Ministry. It adds: 652 wounded—545 civilians, 197

Hers. LITARY objectives in Munich, Frankfort-on-Main and the Ruhr bombed by Allied warplanes as risal for Monday's raid on Paris finial Havas Agency announced sight. MI

now been established that e of the German bombers rt in yesterday's raid were ort yesterday stated

dighters maintained offensive roughout Monday and early in the Dunkirk area. many refineries, oil tanks pots and marshalling yards ihr Valley, Rhenish Prussia ie neighouthood of

\* EYEN it large tracts of Europe and all into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Mazi rule, we shall not flag or fail. We will go on to the end, and will fight in France, on the oceans and in the air. We will defend our island, whatever the cost, and will fight on the beaches and streets and grounds, in the fields and streets and we shall never surrender.
\* Even if this island or a large part of it were subjugated, our Empire abroad, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle until, in God's good time, the new world, with all its force and nen, set forth to the liberation and reascue of the old world."

ONSIDES

" a copy Oliver

y implies

e L.D.V. ed against suggestions who had come forward

**Defence Volunteers** 

Lord Croft, Under-Secretary for ar, stated in the House of Lords st night that 400,000 had volum-ered for the L.D.V.

400,000 Local

He offic ers old.

It is

"God-fearing

great

SMALL bodies of highly mobile

by

That proclamation of the unbreakable hat proclamation of the unbreakable Allied will to fight on for freedom was made by Mr. Winston Churchill in his speech to the House of Com-mons yesterday—the greatest speech ever made by a Prime Minister of Puriori

ever made by a Prime Minister of Britain. Standing as the staunch embodiment of that will to fight, he declarad.— "I have myself full confidence that if all do their duty, and if nothing is neglected, and the best arrange-ments made—as they are being made—we shall prove ourselves once again able to defend our island home home. We shall ride out the storms of war

We shall ride out the storms of war and outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years." A roar of cheers ans-wered his superb, stark confidence. "That is the resolve of the Government — every man of it every man of it-and that is the will of

and that is the will of Parliament, and the nation," said Mr. Churchill. "The British Empire and the French Re-public, linked to gether in their cause and in their need, will defend to the death their native soil, a i d i ng each other like good com-rades to the utmost of their strength."

rades to the utmost of their strength." HESE were other vital point in the Prime Minister ech (the full report of whic

ins on page 3): Thankfulness at the escap e B.E.F. must not blind to e fact that what happene orth France and Belgium colossal military disaster.

We must expect another blow most inmediately

+ milit We have more military in this country now that before. This will not con We shall not be content i defensive war. We shall up the B.E.F. once again its gallant Commander-inup the its galls Lord G

Bri

#### The Noble Story of Calais

Given an hour to surrender, 400 Eric and Calais to the end, spurned the demand to give in and kept the German hordes at bay for four days. Thirty curve and the port. Thirty curve and a survivors were taken off by the Navy. This noble story of the herede detence c C Calais is told on

Pictures of the **Evacuation**: Pages 8 & 9

#### FRY'S retain pre-war prices

LORD WOOLTON'S APPEAL FOR SOLDIERS' WIVES

Lord Woolton, Munister of Food has appealed to manufacturers to produce goods 'within the reach of the wives of serving soldiers.'

Fry's Cocoa is still at the pre-war price—6d. per quarter pound —and the quality is unchanged. There is no more economic fooddrink than Fry's Cocoa.

The price and quality of Fry's Four-in-one and Fry's Chocolate Spread also remains unchanged.

FRY'S COCOA 6d. per 1 lb. FRY'S FOUR-IN-ONE 6d. per 11b. FRY'S CHOCOLATE SPREAD

6d. per carton

SOMERDALE, BRISTOL D243- 4640

TO BE CHARGED A CHARGE of being responsible for a rumour that he had hea i from a German broadcast by Lord Haw-Haw that the Nazis were going to attack a Mansfield

oops-to be defence by

meeting at h Midland littee, whi Regiona ch will he jurisdiction of the ormation. ed: "A Ministry offi-

LIVESTOCK LEAVES COAST

upon suppli

oid. s no mere outlet of patriotic a that we are endeavouring uit," he said, " but a fighting thich may be at grips with eavy next week or even toemotion to recrui force wi the energy Strabolgi said that open spaces unusable of invading planes we same with large sp Lord making landing do the witer. Lord

Breadalbane suggested that cal area should have a lorry ed against splinters and bul-



and strongly-armed tro g organised for home

being brought today nan at Mansfield. stated today by Mr. J. L. mal Information Officer, ural meeting at Notling.

will be the first case of its kind the new regulations.

precautionary measure, t of livestock in certain are a-East England are being in the Ministry of Agrici te store animals, peritcui-and lambs, are being trans-ther counties. for immediate slaughter ought by the Ministry of ve, and will not have any i supplies of home-killed ose areas.

+ + Meantime we must bring B tain's defences to the height ficiency.

# <mark>A Veteran</mark>.

# Are you sure?

The RSAR Association is a member of the Defence Reserves Association, whose aims are

- to foster and assist the Australian Defence Force with particular emphasis on the Reserves.
- to make and receive gifts and donations.
- to publicise the Defence Reserves by public relations facilities and activities.
- to be involved actively in the welfare and betterment of serving and former Defence Force members with specific attention to those of the Defence Reserves.
- to encourage loyalty to the Commonwealth of Australia and observance of its laws and statutes.
- to consider and where appropriate seek changes to the conditions of service, amenities and equipments relating to Defence Reserves.

• to aid recruiting for the Defence Reserves and assist in the promotion of their units and squadrons. to represent the standpoint of the Defence Reserves in the promotion of an effective tri-service Defence Force.

Meetings are held frequently with senior uniformed and civilian officers within the Department of Defence to discuss a wide range of issues particularly those affecting Reserves. Meetings on policy matters are often held between State committees and federal parliamentarians to present the DRA perspective on defence planning intentions and to discuss likely implications for Defence Reservists. <u>https://dra.org.au/content/14/about-us</u>

You may have been aware of some anomalies recently with the issue of Defence Gold, White and Orange cards to veterans, or those DVA <u>said</u> were veterans. President of our kindred organisation, the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association (SAMRA) LTCOL Reg Williams AM RFD (Retd) (also a member of DRA) has sent a letter to the Federal Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Honourable Darren Gee MP stating his views on what can only be seen as "one-sided government bureaucracy" in their categorisation of their meaning of the word "veteran."

With his kind permission, Reg's letter is printed below.

The Honourable Andrew Gee MP Minister for Veterans Affairs <u>minister@dva.gov.au</u>

Dear Minister,

As president of the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association (SAMRA) an Ex-Servicemen's Organisation (ESO) consisting of both past and serving reservists, I have been asked by my members to raise with you the injustice and inequity that has arisen with the implementation of the Veterans' Recognition Act of 2019.

There is no doubt that the intent of the 8 November 2017 Roundtable of Ministers responsible for veteran Issues, both houses of the Federal Parliament and the select committee that reviewed the proposed Bill, that the term **veteran** was to apply to *a person who is serving or has served in the ADF (2017 Roundtable)*. In fact, the Act (Section 4) defines a veteran as follows: **veteran means a person who has served, or is serving, as a member of the Permanent Forces or as a member of the Reserve.** 

However, in implementing this initiative, DVA, despite the intent of Parliament, determined that most reservists were not entitled to be recognised as veterans. I understand that it was only the personal intervention of Minister Chester, that ensured reservists were able to receive a copy of the Australian Defence Veteran's Covenant and a lapel pin, albeit a reserve pin in lieu of the veteran pin.

### I'm a Veteran. At least I thought I was!

DVA determined that only reservists who had completed one or more days of continuous fulltime service (CFTS) were to be considered veterans. This means that a soldier joining the permanent army since October 2019 is automatically a veteran the day they join, whereas a reservist such as the current Honorary Secretary of the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association (SAMRA) who recently completed 50 years part time reserve service (equivalent to at least 10 years full time) is not. All because he has not been employed for at least one day on a CFTS basis during his 50 years of service. Reservists are normally remunerated via Army Reserve Training Salary (ARTS) with CFTS utilised when reserve officers or non-commissioned officers are temporarily undertaking permanent force (full time) roles or have been called up for Emergency Duty (eg., Bushfire Assist).

Defence has been working steadily over the last 20 years to integrate the permanent and part time components. This integration has been so successful that Defence now considers that it has full-time and part-time components rather than regulars and reserves. However, the division of the Total Force into veterans (full time component) and non-veterans (part time component) has potential to significantly damage the Total Force concept. The implementation of this Act has resulted in the Reservist being treated as second class and not appreciated for their contribution to their country's defence – this is counter to the intent of the Act and reflects poorly on the Commonwealth Government.

To make matters worse, the DVA team responsible for implementing the Act has exacerbated this inequity by linking the "new veteran card" with the existing DVA veteran health cards and their consequent liability. There is no universal veteran card, just a re-design and re-issue of the existing DVA veteran health liability card (white, orange or gold). The fact is, that most of the Defence Force (current and former) will not automatically get a veteran card to proudly show their service – **only those with a current DVA health card and those newly classified by DVA as a veteran, who apply for the Covenant, will get the Veterans' White Card and lapel pin to show that they are veterans.** Upon receipt of the card, they also get access to a significant range of retail discounts provided by Australian Partners of Defence (APOD).

These new non-health liability veterans, however, receive another non-intended benefit. Currently the issue of a White Card automatically triggers the DVA Veterans Supplement of \$6.20 per fortnight. This supplement is intended to compensate recipients for out-of-pocket expenses, to purchase medicines associated with their illnesses. If only 10,000 of the current and ex- serving members of the Permanent ADF apply for their veteran card, pin, and covenant, it would effectively be an ex- gratia payment by the Government of \$1.6m per year. If the current 59,000 permanent members and 22,000 standby reservists (ex-permanent) were to apply for their veteran card, it would amount to over \$13m per year.

There are also inconsistences in the determination and application of the rules relating to the issuing of the veteran card. For example, ex-reservists with no CFTS have been given veteran status simply by indicating, when asked, that they have undertaken CFTS - when they have not. Many current reservists would be familiar with the term CFTS but most reservists who served prior to about 2010 would not. Annual camps, recruit courses etc., were known and referred to, as periods of continuous training and they were "full time" from the members perspective. Notwith-standing the fact that reservists are generally remunerated via ARTS, there have been many occasions in the past, particularly during periods of financial restrictions, when key unit members have been employed using CFTS. In many cases, it would be difficult for Defence to find the records to either prove or disprove an ex-reservist's claim that they had been employed under CFTS conditions. Hundreds of thousands of reservists have served in the Defence Force since 1948 and most of these prior to the implementation of computers and sophisticated software programs. Not only can this simple CFTS question for determining eligibility be easily misinterpreted by exreservists but if they understood what CFTS meant and were eligible, it would be almost impossible for them to verify that they had been employed under CFTS conditions.

It is interesting to note that since implementation of the Act in October 2019, DVA has amended eligibility to in-

## I'm a Veteran. At least I thought I was!

clude reservists who have engaged in Disaster Relief and Border Protection duties. Most reservists engaged in these duties have been employed on CFTS, but many were remunerated via ARTS. Whilst I am pleased to see these reservists included and recognised, it just demonstrates the stupidity of the CFTS eligibility parameter. The CFTS rule has been broken in this case by DVA to ensure that all the contributors to Operation Resolute and Operation Bushfire Assist are equally recognised. It is a pity that reservists involved in similar operations in the past have not been included - but they were paid by ARTS. However, eligibility for service such as this, makes more sense and is easier to manage than one based on how the member is remunerated.

It is apparent that DVA developed their implementation plan without advice from and consultation with the key stakeholders. The Defence Reserves Association (DRA) the only national ESO solely focussed on Reserve matters was aware of the legislation but was certainly not consulted about the implementation plan. I also understand that Army was supportive of all reservists being classified as veterans but appears to have been ignored. Governments of the US, UK and Canada classify all their reservists as military veterans. These countries use periods of service as the determinate. For example, the US and Canada have qualifiers of completion of basic training and no dishonourable discharge, whilst for the UK, one day reserve service is sufficient to be classified as a veteran.

Minister, I would be pleased to know who DVA consulted in the preparation for the implementation of the Veterans Recognition Act and the reason for excluding the standard reservist from being considered a veteran. Obviously, there is some urgency needed to unlink the automatic Veteran Supplement payment from the non-health related White Veteran Card, however I seek your support to quickly address this inequity and to stop this blatant discrimination against current and ex-serving reservists.

I bring to your attention the action of the 1996 Coalition Government in abolishing the Reserve Forces Decoration (RFD) and the Reserve Forces Medal (RFM) - **awards that recognised the uniqueness and special efforts of reservists** – ostensibly to facilitate integration and the **one** Defence Force, by aligning the reserve long service awards with the permanent forces.

The implementation of the Veteran's Recognition Act initiative has been poorly executed and has had the opposite effect to its intent. It has angered thousands of ex-reservists, many of whom have served the equivalent of many years full time and spent hundreds of days away from their families but are now less valued by the Government than a permanent force member who has yet to undertake basic training.

Minister, the poorly conceived implementation of this well intended initiative also has the potential to seriously embarrass the Government and warrants your close attention.

Yours sincerely,

<u>Reg Williams</u> AM RFD President SAMRA Inc

Editors note: Reg advises the original letter was sent via email AND hard copy on 5th July 2021. Only a "Read Receipt" was sent back, but as yet no formal reply from the Minister or his staff what-so-ever.

"They also serve, who only stand and wait!" Waiting. Out!



Decided to go for a walk on the beach and got freaked out when I thought I ran into a KKK meeting...turns out they're just closed beach umbrellas



TOO MANY PEOPLE THESE DAYS ARE JUDGEMENTAL. I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM.

# **Corporal Numbnutz Funnies.**



A drover from a huge cattle station in the outback appeared before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates.

"Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asked.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the drover offered.

"On a trip to the back blocks of Broken Hill out in New South Wales, I came across a gang of bikers who were threatening a young lass. I told them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed bikie and smacked him in his face, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground.

I yelled, "Now, back off!! Or I'll kick the crap out of the lot of ya!"

St. Peter said "I'm impressed. When did this happen?"

"Oh, a couple of minutes ago."





# Guess who kept everyone awake last night?



After 10years a wife started to think their child looks kinda strange so she did a DNA test and found out the child is not theirs, she told her husband what she found out, the husband replied, u don't remember do you?? When we were leaving the hospital the baby pooped and u told me go and change him so I went inside got a clean one and left the dirty one there. The wife fainted....



A guy wants a divorce. He tells the judge,"I just can't take it anymore. Every night she's out until way after midnight, just going from bar to bar."

Judge asks, "What's she doing?"

> The guy answers, "Looking for me."

I found \$20 in the car park, and thought to myself "What would Jesus do?" So I turned it into wine!

# McCovid 19



SCOTTISH VARIANT

At least you can hear it coming.

Sarah was in the fertilized egg business. She had several<sup>8</sup>hundred young pullets and ten roosters to fertilize the eggs.

She kept records and any rooster not performing went into the soup pot and was replaced.

This took a lot of time, so she bought some tiny bells and attached them to her roosters.

Each bell had a different tone, so she could tell from a distance which rooster was performing.

Now, she could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report by just listening to the bells.

Sarah's favourite rooster, old Butch, was a very fine specimen but, this morning she noticed old Butch's bell hadn't rung at all!

When she went to investigate, she saw the other roosters were busy chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing, but the pullets hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover.

To Sarah's amazement, old Butch had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring.

He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his job, and walk on to the next one.

Sarah was so proud of old Butch, she entered him in a Show and he became an overnight sensation among the judges.

The result was the judges not only awarded old Butch the "No Bell Peace Prize" they also awarded him the "Pulletsurprise" as well.

Clearly old Butch was a politician in the making.

Who else but a politician could figure out how to win two of the most coveted awards on our planet by being the best at sneaking up on the unsuspecting populace and screwing them when they weren't paying attention?

Vote carefully in the next election.

You can't always hear the bells.

Did you know that 14 muscles are activated when opening a bottle of wine? Fitness is my passion 😂

I LOVE TO MAKE LISTS I ALSO LIKE TO LEAVE THEM ON THE KITCHEN COUNTER AND THEN GUESS WHAT'S ON THE LIST WHILE AT THE STORE

# **EDITORIAL**

Some can't see the trees for the forest. Others can't see the forest for the trees, and some don't see anything but green matter! Our main debate this month, and the resultant letters to the editor in their dozens, is the plan by our state government to change the interior of the Torrens Drill Hall by adding "storage pods" and dividing walls to make the space more "user friendly." At the moment there aren't many users at all, due to the immense size of the space, and it's lack of modern infrastructure. (Sunday Mail 8 August 2021.) There will always be two sides to any argument, and, as members of this wonderful democracy, I encourage good, healthy debate. The original email sent out by lan Smith and reprinted by yours truly has certainly sparked some debate from both sides of the fence, and this is the biggest response I've had to an article for a long, long time.

There are those, like me, who let emotions come to the fore, and eschew any plans to desecrate our "spiritual home," and there are others who fall into the category of "heavy thinkers" who let a few hours go by, before reading the script AGAIN, and then answering, with more thought and less tears.

y thanks go out to all those who took the time to email or phone me on this subject, as you certainly filled my days and made me think of other things more important than watching 20 year old VHS tapes whilst confined to my home for 2 weeks. The result of all our intervention will be for the greater good, and I'm certain the finished product will make most of us proud to say we served there! Once again, thank you all.

h yes! Another operation in another hospital? So far in the past 12 months I've had ops in the Lyell McEwin, Flinders Medical Centre, the RAH and now the QEH. I'm not allowed to travel for 14 days and not allowed any strenuous physical work for that period. (That's not hard for me!) I'm starting my own "Travel Guides to SA Hospitals." It'll be a best seller amongst ambulance chasers, I'm sure. From my close-up experiences I have seen the best and the worst of our health system, and I'm glad to say the "best" are the many nurses, doctors, surgeons, chefs, cooks, volunteers, receptionists, cleaners and porters who all do their utmost to help those of us who don't want to be there in the first place. We've all seen the issues with "ambulance ramping" and the stories of patients being stuck in limbo for hours, waiting to see a Doctor. I've been lucky in my journeys, only being held up once in Emergency for 11 hours after being transported by SA Ambulance on AFL Grand Final Day last year!!! Mind you, I wasn't dying, although there were some folk who clearly were, and I counted myself lucky, being on a gurney alongside a fella from Maree who had one of them AWA transistor wirelesses turned up full bore, tuned in to the big game! Ramping? They don't know what ramping is!!!

That's what I think!

David Laing - Secretary / Editor



#### Contact Us, via

The Secretary David Laing

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Visit us on the web at 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

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Re: Torrens Training Depot** 

Dave,

Thanks for your email.

I will write to S Marshall, Vince Tarzia and David Speirs voicing my personal concerns re this issue and I'll send you a copy also.

Kind regards.

Lee Rossetti

Broken Hill

Hi David,

Thank you for drawing this to our attention.

This proposal is outrageous! How can they contemplate putting those ugly "pods" on this heritage building.

Who let control of this building and parade ground out of the hands of the Defence Department and into State hands in 2001 anyway?

I enlisted in AUR in this building in the 1960's whilst I attended the Adelaide Teacher's College and Adelaide University across Kintore Avenue. I also spent time there in 10 Bn after 43 Bn was disbanded. So I know the building well and wish it to remain exactly as it is at the moment.

If they really MUST have this space adaptable for different uses, they can build their "pods" at the rear of the Drill Hall along Kintore Avenue and hidden by trees and shrubs with a passage into the Hall – this would need to be done with the buildings being of similar "look and feel" of the Drill Hall. They could store tables and chairs, as well as portable partitioning in there and bring it out when needed.

If we are not careful, we will soon see the parade ground "developed" into high-rise apartments or something else, equally appalling.

Please strive, on our behalf, to put an end to this nonsense. Thanks.

Cheers Ian Waters

Canberra

Dave,

Thank you sending me the information on the TTD. It is not a good state of affairs and I will be taking action as requested.

Tím Hanna

Hi David,

I was going to send you this email from Ian Smith tonight I am glad you received it so it can be disseminated to all old and bold who served at Torrens Training Depot.

Kind Regards,

Mímí Ewens

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hello David,

Dreadful news, what is wrong with the SA Government ?, surely Torrens Drill Hall is a heritage building.

Regards,

Bíll Matchett

Hello again David.

Just sent my email to the Premier, imploring him to leave Torrens alone.

Cheers,

Bill M.

Hi David

Sent a letter to my local member for the Premier today.

Cheers,

Trevor Dew

Hi Dave,

As usual people with no connection to the site, historical or otherwise, are going about changing things for what I suspect are financial gains. They see that with the hall divided they can "lease or let" the area out to more groups. A couple of observations I have are as follows;

• the storage pods loose a lot of storage space by having rounded corners, these should be square to maximise available cubic capacity

 located up against the end wall(s) with the entry doors to the pod facing inwardly to the hall saves more space

• is there a need for two pods?

• if one pod extended the entire width of the hall (probably the northern end) and out to the nearest main external double door entry that should be sufficient

either leave the proposed central dividing concertina wall in situ or relocate to equalise the remaining floor area

For what it's worth

Cheers

#### Norm Tregenza

The letters appearing here are only a very small portion of emails I have received on this subject. To say we have "opened a can" is putting things mildly. Suffice it to say, I have omitted those that were overly long or very short, and for that I apologise. There is GOOD light at the end of the tunnel. In an email I received within days of this action commencing, Ian Smith, originator of the email that started it all has advised me that after a meeting with the Premier Steven Marshall, the controversial idea of "storage pods" has been dispensed with, although the folding wall idea will go ahead. Sanity prevails when required. Editor.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good evening Dave,

Having just read through the comments and attachments I must admit to being confused about why this is a project; unless I am mistaken the 'Pods" are little more than a storage container for tables and chairs.

I am also wondering what the overall reasoning is:

- Is the Hall used so much these are needed for additional items and if so what is the current storage arrangement failure that has created a need for the 'Pods
- Is the Hall to receive a further endowment of culture to justify the changes ie: some sort of business or is this simply a just in case model for a possible function
- The Hall has ante rooms and maybe the contents should be moved and the rooms re-furbished to support the contents of the 'Pods'

There has to be a way to maintain the integrity and support the decisions but the Hall is the Hall. Previously we have taken our own or hired the necessary items, why now the change. It all seems a horrible eyesore and mistake going by the architects drawings; it makes no sense without the other sides argument.

Do they have to ask the former serving, no, however, if those who have served do not argue for military heritage then ultimately we will lose it all.

Regards

Craig Thomson WO2 - Formerly 10/27 RSAR Cadre Staff

# **2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The original Annual General Meeting planned for 1st August was postponed due to the SA COVID-19 Lockdown. The restrictions on limiting 1 person per 4 sq metres didn't allow us to conduct the meeting as planned, so we are now anxiously awaiting the lifting of all "space restrictions" so our event can go ahead.

The way things are moving, we will probably set a date for late September or early October, again on a Sunday at 1100 hrs at the Avoca Hotel.

For those who have already contacted me to reserve their seat, there is no need to contact me again UN-LESS you can no longer attend. For those who may have registered an apology but can now attend, please reserve your seat by letting me know, as soon as we have set a date.

# WATCH THIS SPACE

#### Hi David,

I'm sorry I feel I need to weigh in on this and would ask you to share my thoughts with your address group.

In addition to having the honour of being the Honorary Colonel of 3/9LH (SAMR), I am also the President of the Legacy Cub of South Australia and Broken Hill. Legacy has been engaged in collective discussions with Veterans' SA and the Minister for quite some time in relation to the future of Torrens Parade Ground and Drill Hall. We have been encouraged by the Minister's vision of Torrens being a hub for veterans and their families, and as a place to preserve, commemorate and educate the State's military history. It is no secret that we have sold Legacy House in anticipation of possibly moving to Torrens to be a part of the Minister's vision.

We have felt that we have been fully consulted and our views have been acknowledged and actioned. We have not been given any special consultations or treatment, we have always been a part of the collective consultations. The masterplans we have been exposed to are draft and conceptual only, very much open to consultation. We have been quite impressed with the deep respect shown by the government for the history of Torrens and their compassion for the future care of our veterans and their families. Of note, the State Government has just invested \$1.5m for urgent basic infrastructure upgrades that would not have occurred if not for the Minister's motivation and vision for Torrens.

With any initiative such as this there are always winners and losers. Doubtless, those that feel they may be losing control or space at Torrens will put forward their objections in any form and 'no consultation' is a classic claim.

As a veterans community we are often perceived as being a divided group of grumpy old men who are never satisfied. I have no doubt that the email below and the flow of complaints to the Minister will be seen as yet another reinforcement of that perception.

I would encourage those who received your email below to acknowledge that there are two sides to every story and consider the author's motivation.

Cheers,

Chris Burns

President Legacy (SA & Broken Hill)

Premier Stephen Marshall. Sir,

I am extremely disappointed about what is proposed to happen inside the former Torrens Training Depot. My father left there to fight in the Second World War. If you open up the picture I sent you it is of a Machine Gun Battalion that perished later in the war by the hands of the Japanese in Singapore. I myself served at Torrens for over 20 years.

The narrow mindedness of your logistical support in that area is appalling, and on the border of incompetence as per typical State Govt Departments that do not care about the real picture. Us veterans do have a strong passion for the Torrens Parade Ground and is being badly managed by one of your departments.

There has been no consultation ,and some department has decided to go ahead with a ridiculous plan. It makes no sense to the plan and is badly orchestrated. The extra storage area can be in a warehouse close. You are reducing the area the planning borders on laziness, and I consider it an insult to one's intelligence. If people are looking to vote in the future my suggestion is not to upset the veteran population, it is a very close community, and well communicated. I have Cc one of the Associations in this email.

For Your Information and Consideration

Grant James



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



Wempers	ship Category	Date of Application / /		
	Full Membership	Current Serving Military Member		
	\$20 (Former member of the RSAR)	Must have served with the RSAR or a sub	ł	
		unit. FREE 1st year. \$10 thereafter while still serving		
	Non Voting Associate Member	Life Membership (Once only payment)		
	\$10 (Spouses, non former members of RSAR)	FULL Member \$200		
		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	1	1	to	1	1	Current Serving Member of the RSAR or Sub Unit
Spouse/Partners na	me.					Have you been a member since then?

#### Method of Payment

Cheque or Money Order - Payable to	Electronic Funds Transfer						
The Treasurer RSAR Association	Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc						
Christian Bennett	BSB 633 000						
5 Ashwin Parade Torrensville SA 5031	Account 1616 585 88						
	Include your name as an identifier						
	Automatic Deduction (The Fire & Forget option)						
CASH (In person to the Committee)	Account Name:						
	Bank:						
	BSB:						
	Acct#						
	Funds will be deducted at the start of each financial year and can be						
	ceased on written notification to the Secretary or Treasurer						
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 pro-							
vide proof of past or current military service as required.							



Website: www.rsara.asn.au



Please send this completed application, with any proof of service to the RSAR Association Secretary at davidlaing49@bigpond.com