



"SEMPER PARATUS"

The Official Quarterly Magazine

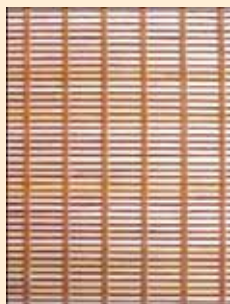
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ASM Fred Bell in younger days

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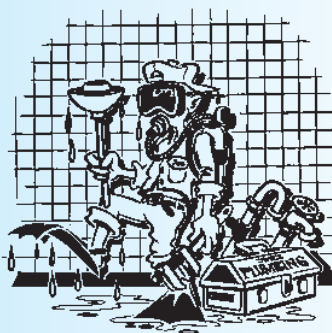


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Message from the President

Welcome to the Winter edition of 5 Field Ambulance RAAMC Association Quarterly Magazine.

This year's ANZAC DAY MARCH we marched behind the RAAMC Association NSW (INC) Banner led by Major General Jeffrey Rosenfeld, the Surgeon General Defence Health Reserves. The medical contingent including members from 1 HSB Association, 1st and 5th Field Ambulance Associations led by the respective Health Section detachments from 8 and 5 CSSB.

Major Kym Henderson, (Banner Bearer), and his unit members from 5CSSB are to be congratulated on their support, their bearing and their performance.

This year's March was very successful in the new format, was well attended as was the follow up reunion at the Paddington-Woollahra RSL, Oxford Street, Paddington opposite Victoria Barracks.

The RAAMC ASSOCIATION (Inc) continues to meet every two months at Victoria Barracks. I would sincerely recommend that you try to attend these meetings which are most informative and conclude with lunch and refreshments at the Paddington-Woollahra RSL. The next meeting is scheduled for 7th Aug. 2009 at 1030 hrs.

The Reserve Forces Day Council continues their

detailed build up to this year's Parade on Sunday, 5 July 2009. I attended the final briefing on 15th May.

The latest Parade details are presented elsewhere in the Magazine. I look forward to catching up with many of you at the RFD Parade and later at the post Parade get together.

I have been invited and will attend the wash-up meeting of ANZAC DAY 2009 by the ANZAC Day March Executive Committee. The meeting will be held at the Hyde Park Forum, 271 Elizabeth Street, Sydney on Thursday, June 11th at 11.30 am. I will include any major changes and suggestions made in the next magazine.

To all our members and with thoughts for our number of sick, Edna and I wish you all well and hope to meet many of you at our next gathering on July 5th.

Derek Cannon



Derek Cannon



L/R: Lt. Col. John Phillips OAM, Colonel Ray Hyslop OAM (our Patron) and Lt.Col. Derek Cannon (our President), taken ANZAC Day 2009.



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From the Hon. Secretary

Dear Member,

Dear Member,

I hope our newsletter finds you in good health, especially to our sick members whom we hope are in good hands as well as in good spirits.

If you know of a member who is not well please contact me, or any of our committee, so that we can give them a "get well" call.

The financial crisis we are all caught in is still not "fixed" but there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel. I hope that none of our members or their offspring have lost his/her job but if they have, don't give up hope and keep positive. The situation WILL improve.

I attended our local RSL Sub Branch Dawn Service (*Lemon Tree Passage and Districts*) and was given the honour of saying "The Prayer for our Nation". We had a very large crowd at 5.30am with quite a large number of young attendees. It was pleasing to see the mums and dads bring their children along. I wonder what they think as the service proceeds in the grey early light of the dawn?

My eldest son, Stephen, attended a Dawn Service at Babinda (in Qld) and it started at 4am! He said the service was held around their Memorial in the park.

He said the speaker was telling the assembled people how the ANZACS landed on the beach in the eerie dark of the early dawn and amid flares...then there was an uncanny quiet as the speaker paused to let the scene sink in.

Then "someone" shot off a .303 in the pitch black which caused quite a few shrieks from the crowd (including Stephen, who was standing quite near the "shooter" but unaware of what was going to take place!).

He said it was very effective and he was very pleased he went.

I have gone to Wee Waa for about 40 days to help our other son, Greg. He is to re-roof a large chickpea shed for Namoi Cotton and I will attend to all the ground jobs and the bookwork. I'll let you know how I went in our next newsletter.

I had an Invitation for our attendance at the AHS Centaur Memorial Service in the Chapel at Concord Hospital. As I could not be present I posted our Standard to member Terry Crawley who took it along to maintain our presence at the Service. (*See AHS Centaur Story further on.*)



Alan Curry
Hon. Secretary

Happy Birthday

APRIL: Kevin CARTER, David COOPER, Neville JOHNSON, Karen PHILLIPS, Bob REID, Thomas VELLA.

MAY: Alan BECKERLEG, Pat CURRY, Doreen FORD, Joe GATTY, Terry IRVINE, John PHILLIPS.

JUNE: John A'QUILINA, Terry CRAWLEY, Bill THOMPSON.

Our Association wishes each of you "All the Best" on your "special" day – have you given me your month of birth? A belated "Happy Birthday" for Ken Phillips in January and Harding Burns in February.



SICK PARADE

John A'QUILINA, Neil BARRIE, Robert and Helen BOYTER, Kevin CARTER, David CAVANAUGH, Brian CHANDLER, John DAVIES, Victor ("Bluey") DAVIS, John de WITT, Bert FERGUSON, Nelson FIORENTINO, Ray GRANT, Ray HARRINGTON (Merrylands Aged Care Centre), Max HEYDON, Kevin HURRELL, Neville JOHNSON, Sir Keith JONES, Bob LEECH, Estelle LINDSAY, Huss MAHOMET, "Roy" McDONALD, Rayda NOBLE, Charles O'MEALLY, John PHILLIPS, Alan ROBINSON, Harley RODD, Diana ROTHFIELD, Sr. "Sue" THOMPSON (Big Sister Hostel, Room 216, 2c Karimbla Rd, Miranda), Arthur WALTON, John WEAVER and John WOODHEAD.

Dr. Jim ELLIS is seriously ill in hospital and the outlook is not good. His son, Andrew, notified me, prior to our magazine going to print, by email with the sad news.

I know Jim has many good friends in the Association and our prayers are with him and his family, as they sit by his side.

2009 "FUND-RAISER"

Our Association appreciates very much your purchase of our "Raffle Tickets" at \$1 each. Every little bit helps. The winner will receive half the money that is donated and it will be drawn at our Annual "Mixed" Reunion in November.

CAN YOU ASSIST?

RE: 2 AGH

Major Michael Tyquin is trying to find out exactly what month (and date) in possibly 1987, that 2 AGH went off the ORBAT?

Our member, Colin Kline, gave Michael some info on, possibly, 2 Camp Hospital and the Field Hygiene Unit when it was in Victoria Barracks (Sydney). Colin said Capt. Clive Hatherly and Staff Sgt Frank Meagher ran the office!

NEW MEMBERS

Doreen FORD is sincerely welcomed into our Association. I must thank our member, George Harris, who introduced us to Doreen through her involvement in their sub branch on the Central Coast (NSW).

Doreen has offered to let me have her "story" for a future newsletter but in the meantime we look forward to meeting her in the near future at one of our gatherings. Welcome Doreen.

2009 ANNUAL "MIXED" REUNION LUNCHEON

Our annual get-together with our fellow members and wives/partners/friends will take place on Saturday, 14th November at 1pm.

We will meet at the Berkeley Hotel in Redfern (our usual "meeting place") and enjoy a nice meal in each other's company, for a few hours.

The cost for the day will be \$35 (food and drink) per person.

Would you kindly write this date on your calendar. I will put a reminder notice in our next newsletter (Battle for Australia Ceremony—3'09).



RESERVE FORCES DAY (Details)

SUNDAY 5th JULY

This year will be the honoring of the "39er's"—those people who "joined up" in 1939 to fight in WW 2.

Yes, their ranks may be very thin and will probably be outnumbered by the VIP's but they will have "Pride of Place" in this year's Reserve Forces Day Celebrations.

Are you a "39er"?—please let me know so that I can forward your name to the RFD Committee and you can be afforded "Special Recognition" on this day.

This year will see a different format in that there will be NO STREET MARCH.

The whole Parade will take place in the main park behind Sydney Hospital and EAST of Hospital Road.

The RFD Committee has received approval to issue a FREE "Commemorative Certificate" for members who take part in the Parade.

Travel is FREE on all Government buses, ferries and trains if you are wearing your medals, Beret, Name Badge.

You are most welcome to join us in this year's Parade.

If you can't make it to the Parade then please feel free to join us afterwards at our usual Meeting Place—The Berkeley Hotel in Redfern, (it is in Abercrombie Street—near Cleveland Street and about 5 mins walk from Redfern train station).

COST approx \$35 Food and Drink.

(An extensive rehearsal will be had prior to the actual day. This rehearsal will be held on Sunday, 21st June starting at 0830hrs and going to 1300hrs.

Are you available to volunteer? I need ONE more person. We have myself, our President, Derek Cannon, Our ASM, Fred Bell and Laurie Farrugia—we need FIVE at the rehearsal—please contact me prior to the 21st!!!!)

Details for the actual day are:-

SUNDAY, 5th JULY

0930hrs: Standard Bearer report to NSW Police Memorial (on the Eastern Side of Art Gallery Road) and **Banner Party** report near the toilet block on Hospital Road.

1030hrs: Association Members will be in the 5 Brigade block at the EASTERN Corner of the Parade Ground (situated in Central Ave—in the park.)

1040hrs: Banner Party marches to the Pipes and Drums to the "Take Post" position.

1100hrs: Parade commences.

The various Brigades will "Form Up" on markers—**Standard Bearers** will "Take Post" and we will all be called to ATTENTION and then Stand At Ease.

A General Salute will be given to the VIP's and then another when the "39er's" and Her Excellency inspects the Parade.

After the speeches and Parade concludes, we will be "Dismissed".

I am certain the new "format" will be a success—we look forward to your company either "On Parade" or at the "Berkeley".



5 Fd Amb Members waiting to march off.





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ANZAC DAY MARCH

2009

(Post March Summary)



Well members, what a memorable day!

It was a beautiful autumn morning with a rather stiff westerly blowing but once we were moving the Banner Bearers seemed to cope quite well.

We thank Frank Oliver, John Phillips and Warren Barnes for greeting us prior to them marching with their other respective Associations.

The other "Surprises" were being greeted by member Terry Crawley (*a recent new member*) (near Market Street) who purposely left his post as Ambulance Officer to rush across the road and say "hullo" to myself and Derek, and then, later, being greeted at the Town Hall by a beaming Roy Crossley and his wife, Betty. (*See Roy's "Messages from Members" further on in the newsletter.*)

This was the "inaugural" march for the RAAMC Inc. (NSW Branch) which saw the majority of Medical units marching behind the main Banner of the RAAMC. And after the March, we all met at the Paddington-Woolollahra RSL Club for lunch. (*See pics on page 13.*)

The RAAMC was led by Major General Jeffery Rosenfeld, who flew up from Melbourne for the occasion, and Col. Suresh Badami OAM RFD, the Honorary Colonel of the RAAMC (NSW), together with Theo Dechaufepie (President of the RAAMC Association Inc (NSW) and Major John Straskye, National President of the RAAMC Association Inc.

and Col. Georgina Wheelan AM CSC (Senior Health Officer Land Command).

There were some unattached Medical Corps personnel who turned up and asked permission to march behind the main Banner, and they were made most welcome by Theo and John.

Following the main Banner was 1 Aust. Field Hospital Assn., 1 Field Ambulance Assn., 5 Field Ambulance Assn., and 8 Field Ambulance Assn. (*Hopefully, next year we may have presence of the Nursing and Dental Corps—although it's hard to change and break habit and tradition.*)

It was an emotional feeling to march, to see the thousands and thousands of onlookers and well-wishers who must never have stopped clapping and cheering since 9am.

We came past the Cenotaph and on to George Street about 11.45am and there was no "let up" with the enthusiastic reception all along the march route.

There were quite a few people holding signs that simply read "THANK YOU" including one from that well known entrepreneur and stalwart supporter, Dick Smith.

After the march we made our way to the P-W RSL Club in Paddington, where Theo had arranged for us to have a private room.

(Continued on page 11)



Our Banner being carried by 5 CSSB personnel.





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About 70 people returned to have a meal and a friendly chat.

It was unfortunate that we did not get to hear Major General Rosenfeld speak because he had to rush back to the airport to get his flight back home.

We did hear from our good member (The Honorary Colonel of the RAAMC (NSW)) Suresh Badami, who congratulated the organisers of this re-union and for the immense potential it represents, in the endeavour to bring more harmony and esprit de corps to all medical units and personnel.

Suresh said he hoped that this may be the start of better relationships for all medical units and their personnel, and was glad he was a part of it.

An unexpected "highlight" occurred when a Mr. Dick Payten (a 7 Div. Veteran) approached us and asked if he could introduce three "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels" to our gathering.

Dick told the assembled people that these men were a small part of some of the New Guinea highland tribes who assisted in stretchering and carrying back wounded diggers from the Kokoda Trail and other battles that took place in WW 2 in New Guinea.

Their names were Mr. Wesley Akove, Mr. Dikson Hango, and Mr. Benjamin Ijumi, and they are flown here every ANZAC Day through the efforts of a Mr. Michael Ali. Michael works for QANTAS and QANTAS fly them free of charge.

They received a standing ovation, after which many photos were taken.

Dick was to, shortly, escort them to the Football Stadium to see the Sydney Roosters V St George Illawarra Dragons RL Match. *(I thank John Phillips for putting me on to the right person for the above information. John also "looks after" these "Angels" when they take part in the Battle for Australia Ceremony—1st Wednesday in September.)*

Our Association was led by our President, Derek Cannon.

Our patron, Ray Hyslop OAM also marched in the front rank.

A very special thanks go to the members in uniform from 5 CSSB.

Their Training Sgt. Craig Ellem came up to me prior to "forming up" and advised me of the contingent from the Health Company. Craig was not able to take part due to other commitments but we have sent a letter to the unit expressing our grateful thanks.

The members from 5 CSSB Health Company, who carried the Australian Flag and our Banner, were:- Major Kym Henderson, Captains Matthew Maclay, Richard Ng and David Thompson, Cpl. Megan Gavel (Australian Flag) and Pte. Edward Hung.

They kept perfect step for us, the whole way.

We sincerely thank the following Members and friends who marched with us or came back to the P-W RSL Club afterwards.

Samuel ALEXANDER, Suresh BADAMI OAM, Steve BALDICK, Fred BELL, Richard BOURKE, Robert BOYTER, Barry COLLINS OAM, Peter and Madeline DALGLEISH (previous members, hopefully, soon to re-join us), Laurie and son, Paul, FARRUGIA



Photo shows Theo Dechaufepie--back to camera (President-RAAMC Association Inc. (NSW Branch) speaking to Major General Jeffrey Rosenfeld --Surgeon General Defence Health Reserves (on left) and Colonel Suresh Badami OAM (Honorary Colonel RAAMC (NSW). Major General Rosenfeld came up from Victoria to lead the RAAMC Association Inc.





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(Marched behind 1 AGH), Brett FERRARI, Nelson FIORENTINO, John and Margaret GORRELL (came down from Qld to take part), Kevin HURRELL, Ray HYSLOP OAM, Ken ILES (possible new member), Paul JANSON (friend), Frank LANG, M/s Tilly LLOYD (friend), Robert LOVE, Edwin LOWERY, Brian MILLIS (friend), David MOLESWORTH (friend), Michael MORONEY, Barry O'KEEFE, Peter PAISLEY, Barry and Heather PERIGO, Harley RODD, Bill RYLANDS, Maurice SAINSBURY AM (possible new member), Paul and Judy SHERGOLD, John SMITH OAM, Paul STEEL, Rob STEWART, Chris STRODE, Brian TAMS, David VERO, Darren WATERSON, John WEAVER and Bruce WHITTET.

(My sincere apologies if I have omitted your name)

I received Apologies from:-

John A'QUILINA, John CHARTER, Bill CLUTTERBUCK, John DAVIES, John de WITT (first march missed for over 20 years) Terry IRVINE, Bob LEECH, Bob LYNCH, Phillip and Trish McGRATH, Huss MAHOMET, Bill MOLLOY, John OVERTON OAM, Bob REID, Andrew and Diana ROTHFIELD, Mick ROWLEY, Sr. Elizabeth SHEARD, Michael TYQUIN (on Marshalling duties at the March), Matthew and Kate VERCOC and Warwick WILKINSON AO.

ANZAC DAY CELEBRATIONS



One of the tables with mainly 5 Fd Amb Assn members.



The 3 visiting "Fuzzy Wuzzy" Angels (apologies if I have the names not in order)
Mr. Dikson Hango, Mr. Wesley Akove and Mr. Benjamin Ijumi
(Kind Thanks to Dick Payton-7th Div and Michael Ali of Qantas Airways)

Below are some of the other tables with members from other Medical Associations.



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2009 AHS Centaur Memorial Service

12th May

I was unable to attend on the day, due to being interstate, but the following members were able to be present.

Barry Collins OAM, Terry Crawley, Nelson Fiorentino, Eileen Henderson Sir Keith Jones, Tony Millar and John Weaver.

The members said it was a very moving service attended by approximately 100 people in the small chapel at Concord Hospital.

Major General Ray Sharp AO RFD ED (Rtd) gave a most reflective "address" on the infamous sinking of the AHS Centaur, by a Japanese submarine, on the 14th May 1943.

Since then Eileen Henderson has emailed me a lot of information, some of which pertains to the AHS Centaur—I will put this in our next newsletter.



Our Association thanks those members who were able to attend.

Sir Keith Jones lost a brother on the "Centaur", when it was sunk.

(I did write a small piece (see *Messages from Members-Barry Collins, 3'06 Newsletter, pages 8 and 9*) about the AHS Centaur.)

Archibald Lang McLean--Plaque

I had the pleasure of representing our Association at the unveiling of a plaque honouring the life and achievements of Capt. (Dr) Archibald McLean.

This occurred on Sunday, 7th June at 1pm.

Dr. Lise Mellor, the Research Manager (History Projects and Publications), Faculty of Medicine, Sydney University and The Maclean Heritage Trust (through past President, Colin Sproule) received permission to place the plaque on the Bosch Building Medical Library wall.

The plaque reads...*"To Commemorate Dr. Archibald Lang McLean BA MB ChM MD, MC 1885-1922. Bacteriologist-Antarctic Explorer-Soldier-Writer. Bacteriologist and surgeon with Dr. Mawson in Antarctica 1911-1914, Lieut. Royal Army Medical Corps 1917-1918. Awarded Military Cross and Mentioned in Dispatches in France 1918. Author of Bacteriological and other researches 1920. His name and fame should not be forgotten. Erected by the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust 7th June 2009."*

There were about 20 or so Mac/Mcleans and relations present from various locations (including one from WA) and after Lise Mellor gave an "Introductory Speech" a lone Piper played "The Lament".

We all made our way to the Macleay Museum Building where we heard another short history of the expedition and afterwards a lovely "Afternoon Tea".



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MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS

Chris O'REILLY (*A recent new member*) sent me some personal details to share with you.

He was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland. Chris did not like school and was glad when he left.

He went to England when he was 16 to get better employment but enlisted, under age, in the army.

After basic training he served with the Royal Armoured Corps, including a year in (then) West Germany as part of the British Army of the Rhine.

When he completed his army service he returned to the UK and worked in a variety of jobs until applying, and being accepted, to migrate to Australia.

He arrived by ship, in Fremantle WA, in 1964 where he remained for the next 30 years.

(During this time he met his future wife, Christine (a Balmain girl)—hence his reasons to now move to Sydney.)

Chris served 25 years in the WA Police Force achieving the rank of First Class Sergeant. He retired from the force in 1994 due to medical reasons.

It was also during this time he joined 7 Field Ambulance Army Reserve, which was located in the old Artillery Barracks in Fremantle. (*It is now an Army Museum for the info of anyone who might travel there!*)

Chris wrote that this was his life "in a nutshell" but he asked could he write a small "Vale" for his good mate **Terrence George Fitzgerald**.

Chris thought some of our members may have met or known Terry. ("Fitzzy" as he was known.)

"Fitzzy" joined the army, as a regular, in the 1960's and served with 8 Field Ambulance at Nui Dat 1967/68 as a Cpl Medic. He took part in operations at both Fire Support Bases "Balmoral" and "Coral".

During one of those ops he flew with Dr. Digger James, whom we all know as the former head of the RSL.

"Fitzzy" had a second tour of Vietnam in 1970/71 with the AATV with MATT 6 in Hoa Long and MATT 15 at Long Son Island.

When "Fitzzy" came home from the army and discharged, he joined the WA Prison Service and served at the, then, Fremantle Prison. This was a Maximum Security Prison and "housed" the worst criminals in WA.

"Fitzzy" left the prison service and joined the WA Police Force and it was this association that saw us as best mates for over 30 years.

"Fitzzy" got cancer and lost the battle on Melbourne Cup Day last year (2008).

Thankfully, I was able to get over to WA and say our good-byes and my wife, Christine, was able to fly back from the USA to be at his bedside before he died.

He had a wonderful send-off at the Fremantle Cemetery, attended by over 500 people.

There were ex 8 Fd Amb, ex SAS, ex AATV and ex and serving Police men and women.

Also present, was John O'Brien, the ex Pension/Welfare Officer from RSL HQ (Sydney) and now Patron of the "Active Eight", which is 8 Fd.Amb. Association.

Chris said he had the honour to be one of a few who spoke at his funeral. He said it was hard to say "good-bye" to the best mate he ever had.

"Fitzzy", he wrote, was a brave man who fought in war and peace, until the end.

ANZAC Day will not be the same again, with my mate "Fitzzy" gone.

LEST WE FORGET

(Thank you, Chris, for your letter. Your mate "Fitzzy" will never be forgotten by you or Christine. It was a pleasure to record your words.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Darren WATERSON enjoys reading our magazines and thought we might be interested about an "exercise" he was involved with, in 1991.

It was a co-operative effort involving 5 Field Ambulance and 35 Water Transport Squadron.

Darren said the original article was named "Medics on the Move" but when 2 Div Dispatch got hold of it "they" decided it would be better named "Sampan or Bedpans?"

Darren said the print date of the article was 1st April and, NO, it wasn't an April Fool's Joke!

(I have included Darren's article in our Feature section for your enjoyment and one name that is currently one of our members viz; Brett Ferrari may have some vivid memories of this "exercise"—thank you, Darren.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Susan SALVI is sincerely congratulated on being commissioned as Lieutenant in the RAANC. Coincidentally, she wrote, it occurred 11 years to the day of her enlistment in the army.

She was commissioned in September 2008 and is now doing her SSO (Specialist Service Officer) course at Duntroon. Susan said it was going well but very tiring.

When this course is completed she will do the Military Advanced Resuscitation Course (*which used to be the Field Nursing course*) at Bandiana for 5 weeks.

Susan has been "Parading" with 1 HSB but will do some Tuesday nights with 5 CSSB at HMAS Harman once all her courses are completed.

In speaking with Susan I asked her if Julian Salvi was related to her because I heard his name mentioned in connection with a "Brumbies" Super 14 Rugby Union game I partly watched on Foxtel recently.

Susan was proud to tell me her three sons are all rugby players.

Julian IS her son and a "Brumbies" player of great potential.

He has a very impressive playing record which includes Australian Schools Rep. (2002/3-Capt. of the 2003 side), Australia U/21's (2005/6-Capt. of the 2006 side), Prime Minister's XV 2006 and Australia "A" (2007/8).



Another son, Jonathon plays rugby in Italy for the US Benevento side and his TWIN brother, Tristan, has joined the army and is an Operator Supply with 7 CSSB at Enoggera.

He plays rugby for the Army and was picked for the ADF side to play NZ on ANZAC Day—prior to the “Brumbies” match.

Susan said she will get to see two of her sons playing on the one day and later, Tristan will be in Canberra to play in the Tri-Service games.

(Thank you, Susan for your very informative email. Our best wishes go to you and your family and we wish you, and your boys, every success in the future.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

John A’QUILINA enjoys reading our newsletters and was particularly interested to read about Trooper Donaldson’s VC. He asked if I could tell him about the origin of the VC? (I, of course, did not know a great deal!)

I got on to my computer and “Googled” the interesting information which is included as a “Feature” in our newsletter. I hope you enjoy the information that was available.

(Thank you, John, for your phone call. I hope by the time you read this that your wife, Edna, is much better.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Bob LYNCH enjoys reading all the news in our newsletters and passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association.

He was hoping to be fit to get to the ANZAC march with us but his recent injury had not healed.

Bob had a fall when he tripped over his garden hose in a simple accident some weeks back. He sustained a hairline fracture of the femur and a chipped hip socket—he also tore the muscle from behind the knee to the hip.

Bob said he watched us on TV and hoped we all had good reunion afterwards.

He commented on part of an article in our last newsletter regarding 8 Field Ambulance.

Bob served in 8 Field Ambulance in which the HQ was located at King Street, Newcastle. During the 1950’s it was a CMF Unit with a detachment at East Maitland.

He said the OR’s were mainly National Service Trainees completing their “part time” service. Bob was posted to the unit from 10 PI “B” Coy. 19 NSTB at Old Holsworthy in July 1952.

The CO of the unit at the time was Lt. Col. (Dr.) John Sullivan MC and his 2ic was Major (later Lt.Col.) (Dr.) Allan Hellstrand, who was to be the CO after Lt. Col. McPhee.

RMO’s were Capt. (later Brigadier) John Dunne and Capt. (later Colonel) Frank Lang. Both doctors were at the old Newcastle Hospital.

Bob transferred to 5 Field Ambulance, which was then situated at Moore Park (now the Sydney Football Stadium), in 1956/7 after he joined the NSW Fire Brigade.

Shiftwork, however, was not compatible with military requirements and Bob discharged in July 1957.

(Thank you, Bob, what an unfortunate accident. We hope that when you read this newsletter you are back to you old self. Thank you also, for the information on 8 Fd.Amb.)

Harding BURNS was away on his property and returned home to a “bundle of mail” which included our ANZAC Newsletter. He enjoyed reading all the information, particularly the article on Dr. Eric (“Gus”) Susman.

Harding knew “Gus” at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital when Harding was a student. He later became Resident and Registrar for “Gus”.

Harding said “Gus’s” mother was at the same convent school as his grandmother.

The article sparked happy memories of his other good friends (the late) Dudley Williams and (our late President) Jim McGrath.

Harding passes on his good wishes to his many friends in the Association.

(Thank you, Harding, for your letter and donation. It was good to hear from you.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Peter PAISLEY came back to the RAAMC Re-Union after the ANZAC March and in the course of a conversation he was telling me about his band “Peter Paisley’s Washboard Wizards”—his business card reads “*purveyors of fine hot jazz*”, it also shows-- Peter B. Paisley-- *Director and Thimble Exponent*.

I have not had the pleasure of hearing his “band” play but knowing his email address, I could be missing “a treat”!

If any member is thinking of having a “gathering” and might like to hear something different for entertainment—give Peter a call.

He is listed in our Membership Listing that you would have had posted to you some time back—if not, give me a call.

(It was good to see you, Peter, and I see you rekindled some old friendships.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ray HARRINGTON is able converse, with difficulty, to his wife, Pattie.

Ray is still in his Nursing Home at Merrylands (Sydney) and Pattie said his Parkinson’s condition is “stable”.

Pattie asked to convey Ray’s thanks to their friends who enquire about them.

Pattie said that with Ray’s 33 years of army service and just as many for her in army and general nursing, the experiences have made both of us strong and determined.

(Thank you, Pattie, for your letter. We hope that when you receive this newsletter that it finds Ray comfortable and you in good spirits and coping.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Terry CRAWLEY enjoyed receiving his last newsletter and passes on his good wishes to the members.

He was “on duty” with St John’s Ambulance on ANZAC Day but was waiting for us to march past his “duty” point, whereupon he sprinted across the road to shake our hands.



Terry joined some of our other members at the Memorial Service for the AHS Centaur (see Barry Collins' Report further on. Thank you, Terry, for your presence) at Concord Hospital Chapel.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Matthew VERCOE put in his and Kate's apologies for ANZAC Day.

Kate was playing in the Singleton Local Band which was involved both the Dawn Service and the Main Service.

Matt said that put him on "Daddy Day-Care Duty" with their girls, cheering from the sidelines.

(Well done, Matt, we hope Kate and the family had a memorable day.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Rayda NOBLE wrote to thank us for the kind words we said about her late husband, Allan.

I had also sent her an email of what the (recent Victorian) bushfires had done to one particular property that had beautiful carvings and scenery on it. It was a masterpiece of love and devotion—all gone! Rayda said she had seen this email and agreed that it was a sad and emotional event for everyone involved.

Rayda was overwhelmed with community response especially from the young ones. She said they have the CFA (Country Fire Authority?) in her area with the members being sons and daughters etc because their dads' and uncles' were members. She said 6 members died in WW 1 and they were from Carrum CFA.

She looks forward to receiving our newsletters but has asked me to slow down on the emails I send to her, due to her constraints of time she can spend on the computer.

Her son, Shaun, has a caravan building business and to date has not had to put off any staff.

(Any member thinking about buying a 'van and you live in Victoria (or you don't mind travelling to Victoria), please contact me and I will give you Rayda's son's details. He has a well-respected business and I am certain he will help you—greatly.)

When I told her my son, Greg and his wife, Nikki, had opened a café restaurant in Shoal Bay (NSW), Rayda said it brought back memories of when she helped her uncle and aunt in their take-away shop, also in Shoal bay.

Rayda recently attended the Melbourne Shrine for the 2/4th AGH Memorial service. She said it was a beautiful sunny, autumn day, lots of tourists.

She came home sad, but happy to see her friends.

There were not too many WW 2 Vets left in this unit.

Rayda did meet the daughter of the author of "A Hospital at War, The 2/4th Aust General Hospital 1940-1945", (the late Rupert Goodman)

Rayda said it is us descendants that will carry on the history of our relatives who served in WW 1 and 2.

Rayda is still involved with the "Rats of Tobruk" (Vic Branch) in writing some news items and with an "offer" on her home she has been kept very busy.

(Thank you, Rayda, for your letter, donation and emails. I hope by the time you read this you will have sold your home and your pain has eased.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Roy CROSSLEY enjoys our newsletters and apologised for not being with us on ANZAC Day.

Roy and Betty were guests of the Lady Mayoress, Clover Moore, and The NSW State Governor, Marie Bashir AC, to be invited, along with other Under 16's from WW 2, to the Sydney Town Hall.

(I wrote a little of this in our ANZAC Day summary.)

Roy also emailed me some pertinent photos which I will pass on to our publisher for possible inclusion in this newsletter.

(Thank you, Roy, for your email and photos — you look younger every time I see you — must be the fishing and the golf!)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Phillip McGRATH apologised for both he and mum, Trish, for not making it on ANZAC Day.

Trish was coming until the 11th hour when "struck" with a stomach upset and had to apologise.

Phillip is a doctor in the hospital at Mt Isa and working very hard but enjoys his profession.

He said Mt Isa is an extremely remote township which is about 2 and a half hours, by air, from Brisbane.

It is hot, dusty and harsh and has a high aboriginal population with all the associated health problems and this keeps them all busy.

Phillip was surprised how big (and mercenary) the town is but understands that the mine (which is apparently the largest producer of lead and zinc (and other material) in the world), is the driving force.

There is a large workforce, and they earn big money in the mines. Phillip was told by a patient that he earns \$90,000 driving a truck! He wondered if he should give up medicine?

Phillip hopes to return to "the big smoke" in May. He passes on his good wishes to all in the Association.

(Thank you, Phillip, for your email. I think your dad would be have been very proud of your progress. Remember – "all that glitters is not gold—or lead or zinc!")

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Eileen HENDERSON was pleased to see us get an Invitation to the AHS Centaur Memorial Service on the 12th May, in the chapel of Concord Hospital.

She was a trifle upset that the Nursing Corps had been omitted but this has since been rectified.

We are looking forward to meeting her at the chapel.
(Thank you, Eileen, for your email)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Barry O'KEEFE is looking forward to marching with us on ANZAC Day.

His wife, Barbara, has just had back surgery at the RNS Hospital and is happy that she is recovering well.

(Thank you, Barry, for your email. We trust that when you receive this newsletter, you and Barbara may be well enough to go on another cruise. We also appreciate your LIFE MEMBERSHIP donation which was well received.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Estelle LINDSAY wrote to say her and son, Bryan, enjoy reading our newsletters. Estelle likes any poems that we put in it because she has lots of poetry books.

She loves the Australian poets like "Banjo" Patterson and Henry Lawson and loves the poems written about the magpie's call.

Bryan tends their garden and it is frequented by a family of magpies, kookaburras and butcher birds. She said they make her backyard "interesting".

Estelle will look forward to "living in the past" when she watches us on ANZAC Day. She thinks of the men and women who fought and died to give her the freedom to live in security-- and rear her family in safety—plus the future generations—my grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Estelle wrote a "follow up" letter to say she watched the Dawn Service and then the main March up until the RAAMC and 5 Field Ambulance went past. She got very tired but her thoughts were on her relatives—her uncle Will, he died in WW 1 and her cousins—one was a paratrooper in "Z" Force in Borneo and another was in the Libya, Crete and Greece campaign and became a P.O.W. whilst another was a signaller in New Guinea. Estelle said she was very close to her cousins and so very proud of what they did.

(Thank you, Estelle, for your very thoughtful letter and your purchase of raffle tickets in our next Fund-Raiser.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Andrew ROTHFIELD marched on ANZAC DAY and sought Derek's permission to march with his Uncle who marched with 1 Field Ambulance just ahead of 5 Field Ambulance.

Andrew is also preparing his Uni thesis which is due in early May, plus the work load with another new arrival, a little girl, Kiera, a couple of months ago.

(Thank you, Andrew, for your email. We wish you and Christine and your little family all the best and also to mum, who has not enjoyed the best of health for quite a while. We are thinking of you.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Bob LEECH enjoys our newsletters and apologised for not taking part on ANZAC Day.

Bob has been in and out of hospital over the last 18 months, most particularly with breathing problems.

He has a vegie patch at home and takes great pleasure in growing his own vegetables.

Bob will be thinking of us on ANZAC Day and also at the ceremony for the AHS Centaur.

(Thank you, Bob, and thanks to your son, John, who emailed me. We hope that when you read this you will be in better health. Our thoughts also go to your wife, Sue, who is also not 100%.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

John GALLAGHER was a by-stander (*I think—I forgot to ask him if he marched earlier*) at the Angel Hotel in Pitt street (near Martin Place) having some "medicine" when he saw me march past with 5 Field Ambulance.

(John and I go back a long way through our association on the Sydney Waterfront as Tally Clerks since the mid 1960's.)

John has had a distinguished career (full time and part time) in the Army but his present duties involve him as Manager of North Fort (the Artillery Museum).

He has just edited their "inaugural" Newsletter called "BATTERY GUIDE", it consists of 6 pages with colour photos including a nice shot of his grandson, Jack Gallagher (6 years of age) alongside a WW 2 Searchlight Vet, Mr. Don Roberts (aged 86).

If any member (or old gunner) would like me to post it to them it would be our pleasure.

John said our members would enjoy a day at the "Fort", therefore when you read this let me know if you would be interested in being in a party to visit the "Fort" and I will organise all the details and contact you personally.

John also thanked us for the info on the purchase of the 2/14th Fd Regt DVD. He said it is a great DVD and shows the unit in action at Tobruk and El Alamein.

(Thank you, John, for your email and details on North Fort, I'll be in touch. I hope this finds you and Sue and family in good health.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Edwin LOWERY wrote a very nice letter and called it... "*How do others see us?*"

The first incident was when he was on his way back from the AWM last Remembrance Day, dressed in suit and medals etc, when a lady driver stopped to let him cross the road—he immediately gave her a "boxer salute" and she went one better and "blew him a kiss"! (he wrote that she may need to have her eyes examined!)

The second incident occurred when he was working in the Physics Workshop at Macquarie Uni.

The department had a group of students from mainland China to come here and study. One of the group was a little older and a real "bully" and it crossed his mind that he was their "political minder".

During the next week-end he had his hair cut real short (a no:1) and dug out some army badges and photos. (*"Strange, Edwin wrote, how they looked like a young "digger" in New Guinea who looked just like me!"*)

Anyway, come Monday morning the "minder" came into our workshop looking around—he spotted my pictures and asked had I been in the Australian Army.



I told him that I was—years ago and he asked what Corps?

Medical, I told him!

Edwin is a Fitter/Scientific Instrument Maker and had, at the time, been “on the tools” for over 40 years.

“Here I was on the lathe working on a “job” and you could practically see the wheels turning in his head... what was this man doing in the Medical Corps?—could be a good cover story—was I his opposite number?”

During his stay with the Uni he treated me with caution!

Had he heard of the ADF in Korea or Long Tan in Vietnam? I'll never know, but I could feel his eyes always looking at me.

The last incident was when my eldest son (who was in his Honours Degree Year) and his partner had a Vietnamese Student boarding with them.

When the student found out I had been in the Australian Army and a Bushfire Brigade member for over 30 years he became interested in understanding Australian political events. *(Says heaps about his country's army—Edwin wrote.)*

The poor kid's eyes popped when I told him... *“There are no winners in war, only widows, orphans, and parents without anyone to look after them in their old age!”*

Edwin closed off still wondering how people see us?

He is positive that the ADF people are bullet-proof, bomb-proof and fire-proof and can walk on water and that the Australian public no longer “spit” upon us.

(Thank you for your letter, Edwin. You are a thoughtful, purposeful writer. We hope your son does good in his Degree.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Don JARMAN sent me an email saying that he enjoyed reading our newsletter and congratulated everyone involved.

He read a segment from John A'Quilina regarding the history that I have on 5 Field Ambulance and asked if he could have a copy.

Don and his wife, Nancye, researched quite a bit of our history in order to retrace our steps through the western front when they went on this journey in 2008.

Recently, a good friend had given him a large WW 1 Poster (on a large heavy cardboard) which he thought Don might be able to give to a museum or some such.

Don was disappointed to find that it was a “replica” of one that is in the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

He thought our Association might like it *(yes please!)* as he was coming up to stay at Nelson Bay (near our home) and could I meet him?

Ruth and I invited Don and Nancye, to break their journey and call out to Lemon Tree Passage and have a “cuppa” where we had a pleasant couple of hours “chatting”.

It eventuated that Don and Nancye's little “break” at Port Stephens was very nice which included a ferry trip to Tea Gardens.

When they arrived back home to Epping (eventually), Don emailed me that his car's alternator “died” prior to them leaving Port Stephens and they had to have it fixed at Soldiers Point. All is ok now!

They also sent a very nice “Thank You” note for having them stay for a “sandwich”.

(Don is presently working on details of Lt Col J.J. Nicholson's life/death and will send it to me when it is completed. Lt Col Nicholson's grave is in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium at Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen.)

During WW 1 the village of Lijssenthoek was situated on the main communication line between the allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields.

Close to the Front but out of the extreme range of most German field artillery, it became a natural place to establish casualty clearing stations.

The cemetery was first used by the French 15th Hospital D'Evacuation and in June 1915 it began to be used by casualty clearing stations of the Commonwealth Forces.

From April to August 1918, the casualty clearing stations fell back before the German advance, and Field Ambulances (including a French Ambulance) took their places.

The cemetery contains 9,901 Commonwealth burials of WW 1, a few of which were brought in from the battlefields after the Armistice, and 883 war graves of other nationalities, mostly French and German.

It is the second largest Commonwealth Cemetery in Belgium. There are 5 Special Memorial headstones to men known to be buried in this cemetery, these are located near the Stone of Remembrance.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.)

(My kind thanks to Don and the CWGC)

Don also sent me a photo (attached)

(Photo to be forwarded later and put in here! If possible)

(Compliments of the AWM), possibly of 5 Field Ambulance stretcher bearers marching along the 7klm Cappy-Hebe'court road. It was taken on Thursday, 29th August 1918 at 0500 hrs.

It was the same day that the 2nd Division began their assault on Mont St Quentin with 5 Brigade (17,18,19, and 20 Bn) opening the attack.

Don wrote that on seeing the types of men his dad was serving with... *“nothing was going to stop me walking that road”!*

He also wrote that General Lord Rawlinson, the commander of the 5th Army, had not begun breakfast when he heard that the Australians had captured Mont St Quentin; he called it the ... *“The finest feat of the war”.*

(Don gave credit for much of the material written here, to John Laffin's “Guide to Australian Battlefields of the Western front”)

Don wrote that Cappy is a Somme riverside town where 5 Fd Amb were billeted, whilst Hebe'court is a farming village south of the Somme.

He said the road closely follows an old Roman road and climbs fairly steeply out of Cappy and then flattens out to about 20-30 metres above the river level. These days the road goes over the “very high speed” train track just beyond Hebe'court, which is 9klm due west of Peronne.

Don was trying to locate the “source” of the Colour Patches but to date it seems that 2nd Division was a “green diamond” and Battalion patches had the bottom half green with the top half either black, purple, brown or white. Don went on to say there was some confusion and a “deal of



heat" at times. He also found reference to the grey background which, it seems, originated in WW 2.

He also enclosed in his letter, a copy of a page from an "Intelligence Summary" from the 11th September to 13th September (I think it must be 1916 or 1917?)

It reads, in part, that... *"5 Field Ambulance occupied billets in the village of Mulhove. The precinct lends itself for training and recreational facilities. St Omer, the city of Northern France, about 4 klms away was at the disposal of those who availed themselves of the permits granted to visit it.*

The morale of the men has rarely been better, due partly to big things happening in the near future and that the Australians were to be given a prominent part.

The hospitality of the civilian population is worthy of recognition as no effort was spared to make the stay among them a happy one.

Apart from training etc, the Ambulance was only called upon to administer medical attention for the 5th Brigade sick. A small Rest Station was established to accommodate 50 patients, in addition to a small Contact Camp. The nature of the disease was almost confined to trench fever.

A Brigade Order (No:108) was received on the 11th (6pm) to prepare to move to Steenvords (west area) the next day. A Sgt clerk was to report for duty at the Corps Central Bureau at Remy Siding (Sgt Preston was the man).

The Ambulance completed the move out to Malhove at 8am for a Brigade rendezvous. Steenvorde was reached about 5pm after an uneventful route march and camped on the outskirts of the village.

Another Brigade Order (No:109) was received about 10pm for a move the next day (13th).

At 8.45am the Ambulance completely moved out of Steenvords and proceeded by route march to Belgium Battery Corner—a long and dusty march, in very close weather."



(Thank you, Don, for your very informative email and letter. I am sure that our readers will enjoy it as much as I have in writing it. It must have been a very emotional Western Front trip you did. Kind regards to you and Nancye and family)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Steve BALDICK enjoys reading our newsletters and passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association. Steve is thanked for keeping in close touch with our good member, John de Witt.

(John has not been in good health for quite some time and just recently had a bad fall which has broken some bones, he is currently in Sutherland Hospital.

Hopefully there may be some good news in the not too distant future.)

Steve "taped" the ANZAC March and enjoyed watching the new "format" with all the RAAMC units marching together, and he compliments the organisers (John Straskye and Theo Dechaufepie).

He thought the "gathering" at the P-W RSL Club afterwards was good and the food was very nice.

After Steve greeted us at our "Start Point" he made his way back along George Street and sat in one of the "watering holes" to watch us on a big TV screen. He was surrounded by "Naval Types" so he found a quiet corner and was having a nice cold "drink" as he watched us go by.

When he got up to leave, the barman put a fresh schooner in front of him... "That young lady over there bought it for you"! Said the barman.

Steve thought "ullo ullo, me luck's changed, either that or she has left her "seeing eye" dog chained to a pole on the footpath?"

He drained his drink and went over to her to thank her for the beer saying .."I must have looked lonely and forlorn sitting over there by myself!"

"Not at all." She replied, I like to buy a few beers for people on ANZAC Day."

He again thanked her and they exchanged names before ... "wandering off to "catch up" with us at the "Paddo" RSL.

Steve is looking forward to meeting us on RF Day (5th July) and hopefully, at our old meeting venue—The Berkeley Hotel.

(Thank you, Steve, for your letter and your visits/calls to John.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Jack TROY enjoys our newsletters and passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association.

He and his wife, Irene, recently visited the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and were amazed at the new exhibits that have been installed.

He sent me some material about the HMAS SYDNEY (WW 1) which he found fascinating because it destroyed the German cruiser "Emden" on Cocos Island and found some similarity that HMAS SYDNEY (2) in WW 2 was sunk in a battle with the German ship "Kormoran".

He wrote that the air show that was "on display" at the museum should not be missed and noted that the cinematographer responsible for this display is a Kiwi named Peter Jackson (best known for his work on the film... "Lord of the Rings")

They also saw the VC won (recently) by Trooper Mark Donaldson.

Jack said that every Australian should visit the AWM and "wouldn't it be great if every school could be circulated our proud history and heritage".

(Thank you, Jack, for your letter and attachments. I hope when you read this you are much improved after your recent operation.)



ITEMS of INTEREST

A Poem

Some time back (Newsletter 2'07) I wrote about the cruise that Ruth and I went on, together with our neighbours.

I put an "Attachment" (A Poem) in that newsletter from a lady we met on the cruise. Her name is **Edda Davis** and she wrote that poem about Parkinson's disease (from which she suffers—very badly).

I recently received another poem from Edda and I would like to share it with you. (*It is one of the "Features" in our magazine, and is a kind of tribute to the paramedics who have assisted Edda. – Thank you, Edda, for your kind thoughts.*)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Mrs. Margaret Coombes saw our ad in one of the newspapers and it brought back very fond memories of her family's war involvement.

Margaret's husband, Brian, served in the 2/30th Bn in New Guinea—from Port Moresby around to the Sepic River. Brian was a Sgt. in "A" Coy.

Her brother, John Dudgeon, served in the 63rd AIF in New Guinea as an anti aircraft gunner, he was a Bdr., and her younger brother, Donald, served in the RAAF in Britain, with Bomber Command and later, in Burma as a wireless operator and air gunner.

Her mum's cousin, Reg Hallim, was a dispatch rider during WW 1, in Europe. He was awarded the Russia's Zaar's Star by Tsar Nichaolas. Reg again served in the Air Force during WW 2.

It was Margaret's uncle, Jack Dudgeon, who served with 5 Field Ambulance in WW 1.

Jack was Margaret's dad's younger brother. He was born on 8/3/1892 and enlisted on the 23/3/1915 and served at Gallipoli until he was evacuated and then served in France. He was wounded and gassed in action and returned back to Australia on the 9/8/1919.

Jack died on the 9/6/1941 as a result of post war health problems—he had no children or family of his own, but felt sure his records would be of interest to others—he was 49 years of age.

Margaret has four sons, Brian, Tony, Graham and Matthew.

Her son, Matthew, sent me (in B3 size) the 75th Anniversary Edition (from the Sunday Telegraph) of Gallipoli and the ANZAC's, as well as a letter, painstakingly typed from the original, from her uncle Jack to his sister, Lena, in 1916.

(*I have included Jack's letter to his sister, Lena, and a "Lest we Forget" clipping in our features in our magazine with our kind thanks to Margaret and Matthew. The B3 size edition also has the complete list of the "Fallen" at Gallipoli — from "A" to "Z"*)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

18 LAA Regt. sent me a copy of their APRIL newsletter. If any member (*or old gunner*) would like me post this to them please contact me.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Australian War Memorial in Hyde Park

(London) will now have an "Interactive Display" encapsulating Australia's service in the two World Wars.

It was to be unveiled prior to ANZAC Day and is designed to help visitors learn more about the Memorial and the service it commemorates.

Etched into the walls of the Memorial are the names of nearly 24,000 towns across the country, who gave their sons and daughters to these conflicts, and 47 of the battles they fought in.

The interactive display is located at the Wellington Arch, adjacent to the Memorial.

The Memorial is to be closed soon after ANZAC Day to allow re-painting of the lettering on the face of the Memorial during the summer months.

The work is expected to take about 3 months but the interactive display will still be operating.

This display may also be accessed on the internet at www.awmlondon.gov.au

The Defence Indigenous Pre Recruitment Course intends to start 20 indigenous trainees on an 8 week course which, hopefully, prepare them for a career in the ADF.

During the course the recruits will visit defence establishments in Newcastle, Singleton, Sydney, Canberra and Wagga Wagga.

The recruits will undertake training in motivation, discipline, physical fitness, communication and skills to live away from home.

The course forms part of the Government's commitment to making progress on their aim of halving the employment gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians within ten years.

The original course in Townsville (last year) has been hailed as a "success".

Two participants from that course are now army recruits, currently training at Kapooka and another 7 are in the recruiting process.

Through cooperation of the Dept. of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Dept. of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Dept. of Defence, the Federal Government has provided more than \$300,000 towards the 8 week course.

(*My kind thanks to member, Jim Jordan, who sent me these emails from Government MP's."mailing list".*)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



The Rising Sun Badge history was sent to me via email. If there is enough room, I have included it in our "Features" segment of our magazine, for your enjoyment.

The States' involvement in Veteran's Affairs? Theo Dechaufepie sent me an email from a concerned Pensions Advocate asking his State MP (Graham West) if it was true that the States will be asked to now "look after" Veterans' matters?

The minister replied that this was NOT TRUE, but some States have recently appointed Veteran's Affairs Ministers which has been in response to Ex Service Organisations calling on State Governments to have a better focus on Veteran's issues

The Federal Minister for Veterans' Affairs (Alan Griffin MP) welcomed the move as a positive step, for the States to work in a more structured and constructive way—however, it will always be a Federal matter.

(My kind thanks to Theo Dechaufepie (President of the RAAMC Association Inc. (NSW Branch) and his email friend Speedie S and to the web site www.diggerhistory.info/pages for the Rising Sun segment and others regarding the Veteran's Affairs email.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The National President of the RAAMC Association (Inc.)

—Major John Straskye, wrote to Major General Digger James AC AO asking if he would accept the appointment of Patron to the RAAMC Association (Inc).

The General wrote back to John to congratulate him for being an instigator in developing the Association, as this will assist all RAAMC personnel to have a home for life and not be forgotten.

Major General James wrote that...*"The RAAMC is quite different to others in our army, and a home for all whilst in service and later, as civilians, has always been my wish. It is my pleasure and honour to accept the appointment as Patron of the RAAMC Association."*

(I thank John for allowing me access to Major General Digger James's reply and trust that he is not offended with my "editing".)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Major General John Pearn AM enjoys reading all the news and passes on his good wishes to his friends and members in the Association. John also sent me (through our President, Derek Cannon) an 8 page "Paper" titled.. "Enduring symbols of Dentistry: International metaphors of dental science. *(I will keep this for a "future" issue in our newsletter.)*

He recently delivered an "Invited Paper" entitled -- **West of Mexico: First Doctors and Diseases in the Pacific.**

I have included his absorbing 15-page "paper" as one of our features for your enjoyment.

(My sincere thanks, Major General Pearn, for his continued interest in supplying me reading material for the benefit of our members.)

The 6th Light Horse Regiment has a well known and very distinctive record during WW 1.

Raised in Sydney in September 1914 from men who had enlisted from NSW.

They disembarked in Egypt in February 1915 and were part of the 2nd Light Horse Brigade.

They were considered unsuitable for the Gallipoli engagement but were subsequently deployed, without their horses, to reinforce the infantry.

They became responsible for a sector on the far right of the ANZAC line and played a defensive role until it left the peninsula on the 20th December 1915.

It fought in many engagements until lastly assisting in putting down the Egyptian revolt of early 1919—they sailed for home in June 1919.

They suffered 111 killed and 461 wounded.

Their decorations were:- 7 DSO's, 6 MC's, 7 DCM's, 15 MM's, 1 MSM, 37 MID's, and 4 Foreign Awards.

The reason for the small info above is member Kevin Hurrell was recently browsing through the "Lifeline" shop in Gosford (on the Central Coast of NSW) and came across this beautifully embroidered cloth edged with lace.

The cloth was a green and cerise triangle with the centrepiece being a "lyrebird".

The words around the lyrebird read 6 ALH AIF "Fight on, Fight ever".

It was sent home from a member of the Regiment to one of his family—it was dated 1918, Egypt, Cairo.



6th Light Horse Tapestry with Major Kym Henderson, Derek Cannon and the procurer of the Tapestry, member Kevin Hurrell.

When the management of the store found out some of our history they "donated" this cloth to Kevin and he presented it to our President, Derek Cannon, after the ANZAC Day March when we were all gathered at the P-W RSL Club.

Derek is going to get it framed and later hand it over to the War Memorial, courtesy of 5 Fd Amb Assn.

A "Thank You" letter has been sent to the Lifeline store for their thoughtfulness in donating it to us.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Don Melville has been writing to us and recently sent me a letter with a photo of his Dad, Jim Melville, and two mates, (S.Paul and Bill Lawrence) all with 5 Field Ambulance—possibly taken on the Western Front sometime between May 1916 and August 1917. They are sitting on a pile of bombed rubble with their tin hats on and their gas masks on their chests, two of them having a smoke and all smiling at the camera.

Don wondered if the AWM would be interested in the photo?

(I am sure they would. I thank you, Don, for your letter.)



From your Secretary...

Thank You

Thank you very much, Members, for your yearly dues, donations and LIFE MEMBERSHIPS. They are so very much appreciated.

(There are some members who are a little behind with their Subs—any little effort is much appreciated.)

To our members who pay by EFT, thank you for identifying yourself.

Your contributions, letters and emails are enjoyed by us all and are an encouragement.

(If you do not collect these newsletters would you please give it to an “outlet” like your local doctor’s “Waiting Room, or your Chemist, or Nursing Home or even an “Outpatients” Department of your local

hospital, or your RSL Club/Sub Branch. Someone may be interested in reading it.)

(Members on the Internet—don’t forget our own site (see Front Cover of our magazine) and also “surf” the RAAMC web site:- www.raamc.com

If you do visit our web site, please feel free to write a comment in our “Guest Book”.)

5 Field Ambulance RAAMC Association is also a proud member of the RAAMC Association Inc.

NB: Some of you reading this magazine may decide you now wish to discontinue to be on our Mailing List, I hope this is not so but if it is please let me know and your wishes will be respected.


KIND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(Of monies received since last newsletter of 4’08. Please contact me if your name was omitted.)

- Harding **BURNS** (Cheque \$50) for Donation
- Ken **DOUST** (2 Cheques \$20 and \$15) for Subs \$15 and ten stamped RAAMC envelopes \$20
- Brett **FERRARI** (Cash \$2.50) Donation from ANZAC Lunch
- Nelson **FIorentino** (Cash \$30) for Subs
- Mrs. Doreen **FORD** (Cheque \$15) for New Member Subs
- Ray **HARRINGTON** (Cheque \$15) for Subs
- Kevin **HURRELL** (Cash \$7) for Raffle Tickets
- Estelle **LINDSAY** (Cheque \$50) for Raffle Tickets
- Edwin **LOWERY** (Cheque \$20) for Subs \$15 and Donation \$5
- Michael **MORONEY** (Cash \$15) for Subs
- Rayda **NOBLE** (Cheque \$20) for Donation
- Barry **O’KEEFE** (Cheque \$100) for Life Membership
- Barry **PERIGO** (Cash \$5) Donation from ANZAC Lunch
- Harley **RODD** (Cheque \$15) for Subs



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WEST OF MEXICO: FIRST DOCTORS AND DISEASES IN THE PACIFIC

John Pearn

Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane and University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

An invited Paper delivered at Universidad Nacional Autonoma De Mexico

Departimento de Historia e Filosofia de la Medicina

January 2007

Professor John Pearn AM RFD

History and Heritage, Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane; and Preceptor, School of Medicine, University of Queensland
C/- Department of Paediatrics & Child Health Royal Children's Hospital, Herston Qld 4029, Australia

Mexico has a proud history extending over many millennia. Its peoples — the Olmec, the Maya, the Zapotec, the Toltec and, after the thirteenth century, the Aztecs — developed rich medical traditions. The echoes of these evolved medical practices, many based on the ethnobotanical constituents of the rich Mexican flora, today persist in contemporary folk medicine not only in Mexico but other nations as well.

Following the Spanish conquests of the Aztec empire in 1519-1521, western concepts of health, disease and its treatment were overlaid on a skilled system of pre-existing Aztec medicine. The Spanish colonisation of both South America and the southern parts of North America in turn were to form the base of exploration into the Pacific Ocean. In the sixteenth century A.D., Spanish naval bases were established in major strategic harbours in what is today Chile and Peru and at Acapulco in Mexico. It was from those Spanish Naval bases, on the eastern littoral of the Pacific Ocean, that explorers and adventurers sailed westwards towards the setting sun, thus exploring the last great unknown quadrant of the globe.

By the sixteenth century also, the Dutch had established colonies in the East Indies, later to be the nations of Indonesia, Borneo, Singapore and Malaysia. From their naval bases at Batavia, the Jakarta of today, Dutch navigators sailed south-east to probe the unknown Southland, marked on contemporary maps as "Terra Incognita" or "Terra Australis Incognita" (Figures on page 28). Dutch sailors followed the sea tracks of the Macassan beche-de-mer fishermen who had travelled south-west from modern-day Indonesia, over the preceding millennia, and had long fished in the inshore waters of a southern land the Australia of today unknown to Western navigators.

Thus the history of a quarter of the earth's surface, what was to be the great sweep of the Pacific Ocean and the continent of Australia and the island of New Zealand at its western limit, was to be mapped from the west by the Dutch and from the east by the Spanish. The first proven European sighting of what is now called Australia (so named by Matthew Flinders in 1814) was made by the Dutch Captain William Jansz in March 1606, on the west coast of what is today Cape York Peninsula. The Spanish, especially from their naval bases both at Callao in Peru and Acapulco in Mexico, probed westward into the unknown.

In 1605, the Spanish authorities in Peru planned a major three-ship expedition which sailed westwards from Callao. The expedition was under the command of Pedro Fernandez de Quiros. The three ships were the capitana (flagship) *San Pedro y San Pablo*, the almiranta (second ship) *San Pedro*, and a smaller perhaps 40 foot "lancha" or "zabra" (launch or tender), *Los Tres Reyes* ("The Three Kings").

Details of this voyage have been known in English since 1930 following the publication of George Barwick's translation of early documents and particularly his compilation of Prado's *Relacion sumaria in New Light on the Discovery of Australia*¹. Two subsequent books were published about the voyage — *La Australia del Espiritu Santo* published in 1966², from documents translated by the Franciscan monk, Celsus Kelly; and *The Voyage of Torres* by Brett Hilder, published by the University of Queensland Press in 1980³.

The original documents relating to this voyage, including extensive material not hitherto studied or translated, are held in the Archivo General de Simancas (the National Archives Office of Spain), originally established by Carlos II of Spain in the period from 1520 to 1530; and other documents held in the Mitchell Library, Sydney. The Archivo General is housed in the castle of the town of Simancas in central Spain. Three original documents and one contemporary derivative document (that of Torquemada) have revealed further details of that voyage. These archives are the accounts of:

Don Diego de Prado y Tovar ("Prado") (The Mitchell Library);

Fray Martin de Munilla O.F.M. (senior priest of the expedition); and

Gaspar Gonzales de Lesa (the navigator) (Simancas).

These documents have been translated by Mr John Windolf and Mrs Frances Windolf of Cooloom, Australia.

Munilla's account also contains some footnotes by another priest, Fray Juan de Torquemada, annotated in 1615. Torquemada did not himself take part in the expedition and his comments, although contemporary and authoritative, are not primary and are derived from a variety of undefined sources.

The datum points of the Spanish South Seas Expedition (1605-1607) voyage include:

1605	21 December – Sailed from Callao
1606	1st June – Landed on Espiritu Santo
	11th June – Quiros on the capitana, <i>San Pedro Y San Pablo</i> , separated from the expedition and returned to South America. Torres commanded the two remaining ships with the two naval surgeons aboard the <i>San Pedro</i>
	26th June – Left Espiritu Santo, sailing west
	11th September – Entered [what is now] Australian waters
	27th September – Landed on Long Island in Torres Strait
1607	22 May – Arrived at Manila





EXPLORING THE PACIFIC: Spanish outreach westwards from Mexico, Peru and Chile. *The Americas*, 1570. By Abraham Ortelius, from his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first true atlas which was the summary of discovery and exploration of the New World.



EXPLORING THE PACIFIC: Jodocus Hondius Sr, *America*, 1606, from his *Atlas Ou Representation Du Monde Universel*. Spanish outreach westwards from Mexico, Peru and Chile had mapped the larger islands of the Pacific Ocean. The unknown but suspected presence of a great southern continent, Terra Australia, is shown as a caption beyond the southern extremities of the known world.



EXPLORING THE PACIFIC: *America*, 1641, by Jan Jansson in his *Novus Atlas*, 1647-1662. This map was a reproduction of an earlier 1630 map published by Jodocus Hondius II. Terra Australia Incognita, the Unknown South Land, is marked in fanciful outline.

Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quiros left Spain and arrived in Lima in March 1605. Over the ensuing months he established the basis for the Pacific expedition comprising his three ships. Quiros was on the capitana (or flagship), *San Pedro y San Pablo*. His second-in-command, Luis Vaez de Torres, commanded the almiranta, or second ship, the *San Pedro*. They sailed westwards in December 1605 under orders to sail "west-south-west to the latitude of 300 South; and if no land were found, then north-west to 100 near the Marquesas Islands; and thence to continue to sail westwards between 4° and 20°, thence along the northern coast of New Guinea to Manilla. They were thence to return to Mexico; or via the Cape of Good Hope, to Spain"⁴.

The Naval Surgeons

These two pioneering Spanish doctors are known both from their mention on the manifests of the expedition ships, mention of them by the "gentleman voyager", Prado (perhaps in a role similar to that of Sir Joseph Banks 160 years later with Cook on H.M.S. *Endeavour*), and footnote comments on reports of the voyage, made secondarily by the Spanish priest, Fray Juan de Torquemada, in 1615.

The senior of the two surgeons was Alonzo Sanchez de Aranda. He is listed as a "Licenciate" which is translatable as "Bachelor" in the sense of having a formal medical qualification. When the expedition left Callao in December 1605, he was the surgeon on the capitana (the flagship), *San Pedro y San Pablo*. The senior naval surgeon, Alonzo Sanchez de Aranda, transferred from his ship, the *San Pedro y San Pablo* to the smaller ship, the *San Pedro*, at Ticopia, a small island between the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The second doctor was Diego de Rivera, who throughout the voyage was on the almiranta, *San Pedro*— the ship of the officer who was second-in-command. Diego de Rivera is listed on the expedition manifest as "apothecary and surgeon".

An analysis of the events of the voyage at this time, using primary documents, has led Mr John Windolf (historian of Queensland) to believe that this transfer probably followed fears of mutiny and other interpersonal difficulties which had arisen between the expedition commander, Quiros and the senior navigator or pilot. In any event, when Quiros' flagship, the capitana *San Pedro y San Pedro*, became separated from the three-ship fleet on 11th June, 1606, she was without a doctor on her return voyage to Acapulco in Mexico. Both doctors were thus on the *San Pedro*, and remained on that single ship until the expedition reached Manilla on 22nd May 1607.

After the expedition reached Manilla, the *San Pedro* and her crew disappeared without trace later in 1607.

Medical features of the Voyage

The expedition was an extremely healthy one. In this context, it differed dramatically from the ill health and relatively high mortality experienced particularly by British and French expeditions over the ensuing century. The surgeons were acutely aware of the risks of malaria; and primary accounts of the voyage reveal that the crew never slept onshore at night when the expedition visited tropical islands.

Scurvy did not occur on the Spanish ship. Unlike the conservative approach to food which was a feature of the diet of British sailors, the Spanish sailors were accustomed to eating locally. The sailors would raid unattended local orchards, if they encountered these on their travels. The translated journal of the senior priest on the expedition, Fray



Martin de Munilla, reported that the first five months of the expedition were very healthy, until an outbreak of ciguatera occurred on the 27th May 1606. Munilla's account noted that until this outbreak of ciguatera occurred "in the matter of sickness it was the first to occur in this fleet up to that time [May 1606]"⁵.

A short contemporary report of the 30th May, 1606, described what was undoubtedly tropical ulcers amongst the crew:

"The climate in this bay [Big Bay on Espirito Santo] is very good, being neither cold nor hot. But it was noticed that this area was very unhealthy in one respect in that sores on the legs and feet opened afresh everyday, taking a long time to heal"⁵.

On page 234 of Munilla's account which describes an outbreak of ciguatera poisoning⁵, there is a footnote containing some comments on the professionalism of the two naval surgeons, written by Fray Juan de Torquemada, appended in 1615. Torquemada commented that the senior surgeon, Alonso Sanchez de Aranda "although taken ill himself... never ceased night and day preparing and administering hot medicinal beverages and applying other efficacious remedies, such as blood-letting. He received zealous and efficient help from Diego de Rivera, surgeon of the almiranta. They restored health to all"⁵.

Some of the drugs and equipment used by the two doctors can be inferred from a list of medicines and medical supplies known to have been on the capitana, *San Pedro y San Pablo*. The flagship's medical supplies were formally accounted for at Acapulco in Mexico on the 20th December, 1606, after return of the capitana to that port. They comprised:

- "20 jars and 22 gallipots for all classes of medicines
- 1 baskets of drugs
- 2 bundles or bunches of sarsparilla [*Smilax medica*] and cana [*sic*] fistula [*Cassia fistula*]
- 1 lot of plasters"⁶.

Whether or not they carried "Jesuits' Bark" (containing quinine), has not been confirmed. This was used by Spanish doctors in Peru at that time. An excerpt from the *Journal* of the original second pilot of the voyage, Gaspar Gonzales de Leza, also referred to the use of theriaca as a treatment of ciguatera which had stricken the fleet⁷. In that account, Gaspar Gonzales de Leza wrote on the 30th May, 1606:

"We did not go ashore because of the sickness... [but] theriaca was administered and this led to a great benefit in them [the stricken sailors], including the senior surgeon, Alonzo Sanchez de Aranda...by this method God permitted that they should henceforth improve"⁷.

Theriaca or theriac was one of the three most ancient and universal remedies in the European medical tradition. The other two were hiera picra (the sacred holy powder) and terra sigillata (the sacred sealed earth)^{8,9}.

The word "theriaca" derives from the Greek, "ther", a wild beast. Originally, theriaca was used as a more specific remedy against poisons and bites of venomous animals, including snakes. It was used extensively in classical Greece and later Rome. The name "theriaca" was originally used in the treatise written by Nicander of Colophon, physician to Attalus, King of Bythnia, in the second century B.C. His book, entitled *Theriaca*, dealt with the bites of venomous animals and the anecdotes used to counteract their effects.⁸

Theriaca is essentially treacle — the English word "treacle" being a corruption of "theriaca". In pharmaceutical terms, treacle or theriaca was the term originally used for a syrup or

electuary. The word then came to be applied to molasses, which is still used as a popular folk remedy today. In medieval times, theriaca was also known as "Venice treacle"⁹. Theriaca consisted essentially of a treacle base in which were suspended ground or dissolved extracts from wild thyme, apoponax, aniseed fennel and parsley. Other ingredients sometimes included gentian, valerian root, ducks' blood, frankincense, pepper, boiled honey, opium, rhubarb, ginger and ground vipers' flesh. Theriaca was listed in the London Pharmacopoeia until 1746, in the official German Pharmacopoeia until 1872, and in the official French Pharmacopoeia until 1884⁸.

Origins of a Fine Tradition

These two first Spanish naval surgeons, practising their profession in that vast region of the world which today comprises many nations including those of Australasia, were to establish a datum point of reference and to begin a chronology of modern medicine which would have been inconceivable to anyone with even the most fanciful imagination of the times.

In the seventeenth century, ten naval expeditions, Dutch, Spanish and English, were to touch northern Australian waters¹⁰. Apart from the infamous Dutch apothecary on Pelsaert's 1629 *Batavia* expedition, nothing is known of the surgeons or of the other health professionals on board. The naturalist on board Bougainville's *Boudeuse and Etolle* expedition of 1768, Philibert Commerson, was also the expedition surgeon. However, he disembarked at the Ile de France prior to the expedition's arrival in Pacific waters.

On his various voyages of discovery, including the three Pacific voyages, Captain James Cook sailed with a total of ten naval surgeons, of whom the three best known were Surgeon William Broughton Munkhouse (c.1732 - c.1770), Surgeon's Mate Perry¹⁰ and William Anderson, this latter held in particular respect and affection by Cook and mourned by him following Anderson's untimely death at sea from tuberculosis¹¹. Cook's other surgeons included Thomas Andrews, William Ellis, John Kent, John Law, John Patten, David Samwell and John Young¹².

These naval surgeons, and particularly the two Spaniards of the Torres' expedition, were thus the founders of the profession of medicine in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the many other nations of the South West Pacific. This brief audit of the known fragments of their lives shows that they established a referent of the highest professional standards and skills. These latter have changed with the advance of scientific knowledge but the professionalism and integrity which they manifested remains a feature of the health professions of the twenty-first century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ANGELS ON WHEELS

Drowning in a sea of excruciating pain
Desperately searching for some relief to gain
As waves of pain washed over me,
prayed "dear God please set me free."
Finding it difficult to keep my balance,
No doctor handy, best call for an ambulance.

A quick response from these Angels on Wheels
I hoped they could help me through this ordeal.
After ascertaining what relief I could gain
administering injections to ease the pain
Their caring and gentle voices helped to sooth
And ease the agonizing pain while on the move.

Arriving at the hospital no vacant bed,
So in the hail they tendered to me instead.
The stabbing pains continued, I was in a daze
Drifting in and out of a drug induced haze
Staying and caring for me till a bed was free
Then there were patients to end to other than me.

Though hospital staff would give their best care
I felt panic my emotions had been laid bare
My "personal medics" my "Angels on Wheels"
Would be sent to help others through their ordeals
When called, arriving with the greatest speed
Is a very special breed –
I call them "Angels on Wheels"

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POEM

(Sent by email from my good friend and neighbour,
Ann Jones—Author unknown!)

I have a Friend

Around the corner I have a friend
In this great city that has no end.
Yet the days go by and the weeks rush on
And before I know it, a year has gone.

And I never see my old friend's face,
For life's a swift and terrible race.
He knows I like him, just as well
As in the days gone by, when I rang his bell.

And he rang mine—but we were younger then.
And now, we are busy, tired men.
Tired of playing a foolish game,
Tired of trying to make a name.

Tomorrow, I say, I will call on Jim
Just to show that I'm thinking of him.
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes
And distance between us grows and grows.

Around the corner, yet miles away.
"Here's a telegram, Sir—Jim died today."
And that's what we get and deserve in the end,
Around the corner—a vanished friend.



FEATURES:

Jack Dudgeon's letter to sister Lena

Abbasia
16 April 1916
Dear Lena

You asked me in one of your letters to relate some of my experiences.

Well we landed at Gallipoli with one casualty, one chap being shot through the hand before leaving the boat. We rested the day in the gully known as Reserve Gully. As soon as it was dark enough to start we started for the left flank, about four or five miles. On arrival there about 20 stretcher-bearers went out as the 18th Battalion had got mixed up and there were a lot of casualties. One of our boys was out between the two trenches and was shot dead. You can guess that had some effect on the boys.

My first ticklish position was on the night of the 26th August. A very heavy bombardment had been going on all the afternoon and a change was due at 5.00 am. My friend Reg Bull, a dentist of Macquarie Street and myself went to get a stock of water, in as we would need a lot that night. We took a shortcut across the flat and we were in the middle of it with only a small tree as shelter. All of a sudden the charge started and all the bullets came pouring about us, so we ran for the trees and lay flat on the ground. The bullets were cutting into the tree and falling all around us. One was so close that it splashed the dirt on my bare legs. I did not care for too much of that.

After laying there for a while I said to my mate Reg we will be lucky if we get out of this without getting a crack. Well after some time I felt for my pipe and tobacco. It was gone, lost in the run to the tree. I asked my mate for a fag and found he was asleep. He afterwards said he thought he would be shot and it would be a nice way to be killed. After it eased up a bit I told Reg to run for the sap and I had a look around for my pipe but it was gone.

On my arrival in the sap a chap said one your boys was hit lower down so thinking I might be of some use to him I got up and ran down the sap only to find him breathing his last. I got his body and laid it in a side of the sap. You talk of luck, we were on the open field, these boys were in the sap going into the well. He was first shot through the leg and the boys were carrying him on their hands and another bullet went right through his heart and out his back through the chap's arm that was carrying him.

That finishes the first part.

Well that night we had to carry all the wounded across the flat to the beach and I tell you it was some lot. Bullets falling all around you, one of our stretchers was hit. We had all the wounded lined up laying on the sand

in rows of about fifty. Mind you we put through 400 cases that night. After carrying for some time my mate and I were caught up by the Loading Officer for loading barges. I was at the middle of a stretcher and another of our boys at the end. He was shot through the leg. I took him to the dressing place on the beach and he was afterward put on the boat. We finished up our job about dinner time. I might tell you we had nothing from midday the previous day and was fairly beat.

The next lively time we had was one day we were at a relief posting in a sort of donga not far from our camp. About 10.00 am, A Company Tommies started marching up the Donga and as soon as they reached us a Turkish battery opened fire and the shells used to burst right in front of us and we would not be able to see anything until the smoke and powder blew away. It was so strong we used our handkerchiefs to keep it out of our mouths and eyes. After a few minutes of shelling we had seventeen wounded and three killed, who took a bit of getting away in between shots.

You may remember seeing the account of this in The Sunday Times dated 25th or 23rd of September. We were very lucky again only one of our boys being hit and that was not a very serious wound. The whole battery of these Tommies were hit within 20 yards radius of us. We were in the middle of it all. After this we would have nothing to do with the Tommies as they refused to help us carry the wounded away.

Well Lena these are just a couple of the exciting times that we had on Gallipoli. I had one close call of which I will tell you in a later edition. I suppose you wondered why I cabled, well I wanted to get a few things for myself, also for the kids.

Give my love to all the old friends

Your loving brother

Jack
J J Dudgeon
Private

Lest we forget

A priceless piece of World War 1 memorabilia, considered lost forever, has been unearthed just in time for Legacy Week. A cloth embroidered with the signatures of 3,000 soldiers who fought at Gallipoli was found in an old safe 60 years after it went missing. The Gallipoli Cloth, which goes on display at Sydney's Victoria Barracks Museum, is accompanied by a register of the soldiers such as **Private J. Duffy:** "Enlisted 4.1.1915. Wounded Long Pine 9th August, returned... finally got sent home for being a nuisance."



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FEATURES:

SAMPAN OR BEDPANS?

by Lt Darren Waterson

Soldiers from Crows Nest-based 5 Fld Amb recently undertook an amphibious training exercise with 35 Water Tpt Sqn.

The aim of the exercise was to familiarise members of 5 Fld Amb with water operations, including floatation techniques and vehicle loading.

35 Water Tpt Sqn, based at Woolwich, provided two LCM 8S (landing craft medium), which are 60 tonne capacity watercraft designed to operate on beaches without wharf facilities.

The exercise began at Woolwich and concentrated upon the Patonga area of Broken Bay on the NSW Central Coast.

A major part of the exercise involved the movement of simulated casualties across water using improvised floatation techniques, one of which utilised four casualty stretchers and a tarpaulin.

The experience gained by all who participated in the activity should be beneficial in future.

Earlier last year, 5 Fld Amb conducted an advanced Medical Assistant course. This was run mainly to provide a broader scope of medical knowledge not delivered in the Basic Medical Assistance course, and also work on the premise that medical and nursing education is an ongoing process and that all Army Medical establishments are ultimately responsible for the upgrading and professional expertise of their medical personnel.

The course, run by Major Phillip Yantsch, attracted over 20 students and included revision of many areas, including lectures on a broad range of medical and nursing procedures. A practical phase was also included, based on actual Vietnam operations and the casualties which resulted.

The provision of sheep specimens gave a degree of realism which benefited all.



A waterbed for a simulated casualty during the exercise. Providing the floatation device with legs are: L to R, Pte Georgia Forgac, Pte Brett Ferrari, Lt Jeanne McManis, Sgt Andy de Leeuw, Pte Craig Payne and Pte Phil Bardsley.

The patient is Sgt de Leeuw's son.



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