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The Official Quarterly Magazine

5th FIELD AMBULANCE RAAMC ASSOCIATION

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CONTENTS

Message from the President	3
Vale: Brian Clifford Chandler	5
In Memory of the Late Estelle Lindsay	7
Message from the Secretary	9
Happy Birthday.....	9
Anzac Day March.....	11
Tapestry Handover	13
Thank You / Fund Raiser / 2010 Reunion Venue / Congratulations.....	15
5 CSSB Health Company News / Sick Parade / Military Recruiting	17
Messages from Members.....	18
New Members / Kind Acknowledgement.....	20
Poem: Mates.....	21
My Kimberly Cruise Tour.....	22
Items of Interest	24
Features: A Poem for Anzac Day.....	31
Features: A Toast to a Unit	33
Features: Bill Jones Story.....	35
Features: Poem ~ The SS Koopa.....	42
Activity Sheet	47
Application for Membership	48

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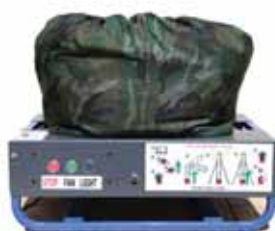
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Gosford SES purchased the Light Tower and have been impressed by its versatility and functionality. We have used it during training and have found it to be excellent during roof operations and outdoor night events.

The light is a softer light, unlike the harsh flood lights and this enables our operators to retain their night vision. The fluorescent type light emitting from above the work site greatly reduces the shadow that normally accompanies flood lights. The light produces minimal heat and packs up very quickly. It is easily carried by one person.

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*Rolf Garda
Gosford SES Controller*

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I can say, that the unit would be a valued asset to any Rural Emergency Service and accordingly I have passed this view onto our Regional Headquarters.

*Glen McKay
Assistant to the Apparatus Officer
Darraweit Guim
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Message from the President

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

I trust you enjoyed the Christmas break and are raring to get into 2010. To our sick and staggering members I hope 2010 brings you greater fulfillment than in the past year.

Your Association is still being superbly marshaled by Alan Curry even with the trauma of Ruth and himself moving house for he has never taken the foot off the Association pedal. Sincere thanks Alan.

On December 16th 2009 Kevin Hurrell, Brian Tams and I handed over the framed 1st World War 6 Light Horse Tapestry to, the Manager Greg Read and Deputy Manager Anthony Clancy of the Anzac Memorial Building, Hyde Park Sydney. This occasion and the certificate of acceptance are found later in this edition.

Following the successful launch of the 2010 Reserve Forces Day (RFD) at Shore School on 5th December 2009 (refer December 2009 Magazine), the presentation of RFD 2009 Parade Awards and briefing for the 2010 Parade will take place on 18th March 2010. The location is Level 11, Defence Plaza 270 Pitt St. Sydney 1900 for 1930. Member Barry Collins, ASM Fred Bell and I will be in attendance.

Anzac Day is almost with us again and following the success of last year I urge all able members to join us behind the NSW RAAMC ASSOCIATION Banner. We have again invited 5 CSSB Health Company to lead our contingent.

We will form up at the Corner of Spring and Bent Streets at approximately 1030hrs. You are all encouraged to attend the After March Function booked for Paddington RSL Club. If attending please contact Alan Curry on 0427824646 or Theo Dechaupie on 0408781717.

The following are from the minutes of the RAAMC ASSOCIATION (Inc) NSW meeting at Victoria Barracks on Friday 5th February 2010.

The National President, John Straskye informed that he had spoken to the Commanding Officer of 1st Health Support Battalion, Lt Col Lachlan Sinclair and as a consequence members from 1 HSB will be marching on Anzac Day with 1 AFH.

John Straskye informed the meeting that the RAAMC Corps Committee will soon be selling limited edition (200) signed prints of the RAAMC Painting "From The Sudan to Afghanistan" for \$350. In addition 20 limited edition half size replicas, printed on canvas, were also on sale at \$800. A replica was shown at the meeting.

John also informed the meeting that progress was continuing with the establishment of the Victorian Branch of the RAAMC Association and that their inaugural meeting was on 28th February.

Rod Bain informed the meeting that a site on Anzac Parade, Canberra has been allocated for construction of a National War Memorial to commemorate the soldiers and nurses who served in South Africa between 1899 and 1902.

The RAAMC ASSOCIATION (Inc) NSW meets on the first Friday of each even Month. The next meeting however is on 9th April 2010 at Victoria Barracks at 1030hrs. due to the first Friday being Easter. 5 Field Ambulance Association members are encouraged to attend if possible.

Good reading and best regards and hope to see you on Anzac Day.

Derek Cannon

DEREK CANNON
President



Derek Cannon

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VALE ~ BRIAN CLIFFORD CHANDLER

Brian Clifford CHANDLER passed away on Wednesday 17th February 2010 and two days later, sadly, he was followed by his wife, Marjorie, on the 19th.

Their son, Peter, was clearing his mum and dad's unit in the Retirement Village where they lived (in Warilla, NSW) and came across our last newsletter.

Brian took ill about 2 years ago with the onset of dementia and then diabetes. He was placed in the nearby Warrigal Nursing Home which was within easy visiting distance for Marjorie to visit him, which she did, religiously, every day at 10am and 3pm.

During this time, Marjorie had been diagnosed with lung cancer but it never stopped her visits to Brian.

Around Christmas time last year, Marjorie was hospitalised for a time and Brian deteriorated, especially with his diabetes.

Peter said... *"When Dad passed away, I think Mum happily followed, as she had done through his entire army career."*

I thank the Army Eulogy Section and son, Peter, for the following details they supplied;

Brian (or Bill as he was known) joined the army during WW 2. He signed up in the A.I.F. on the 6th June 1940 in Victoria, his army number was VX22834 and he was with the 2/5th Australian Field Ambulance A.I.F.

Brian served overseas in the Middle East the 20th October 1940 until the 28th March 1942.

He served in New Guinea from the 10th August 1942 until the 1st of December 1942. He was back in New Guinea from the 17th August 1943 until the 20th May 1944.

He was later in Borneo from the 22nd March 1945 until the 20th November 1945.

Brian was discharged from the A.I.F. on the 7th December 1945 and after some short time in civilian life, he re-joined the Australian Regular Army on the 2nd January 1952 with number 33979.

He saw service in Malaya from the 1st September 1955 until 21st October 1957 and was eventually discharged on the 1st January 1973 with the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1.

Brian had service with the following principal units; 2/5th Australian Field Ambulance, 2/4th Australian field Ambulance, 2 Field Ambulance, 1 Section, 16 Field Ambulance, 20 National Service Training Battalion, 3 Camp Hospital, H.Q. 2 Cadet Brigade, 2 General Hospital/1 Military Hospital, School of Army Health and 5 Field Ambulance.

Brian earned the following awards;

1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, Australia Service Medal 1939-45, General Medal with Clasp Malaya, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Brian retired from his civilian occupation with BHP as a security officer and in retirement, he and his wife, Marjorie, enjoyed their caravaning, fishing and bowls.

Brian (and Marjorie) will be sadly missed by all their friends and our Association extends its sincere sympathy to Peter and his brother Richard, and their families for the sad loss of their dad and then their mum.

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In Memory of the Late Estelle Lindsay

I wrote a little about our late member, Estelle Lindsay, in our Christmas Magazine (Dec'09) and since then I asked the Celebrant if she would send me a copy of the Eulogy she read out. I would like to let you read what I heard.

Estelle was born in Eastwood on the 21st July 1917 to Herbert and Ada Hawkins, into a world very different to the world we live in now.

It was the third year of World War 1, Billy Hughes was Prime Minister of Australia and King George V was the reigning British monarch.

Estelle was the oldest of three with two sisters, Marie and Alma, who have sadly passed away.

She grew up in a loving, close-knit family and had many happy memories of her early years. In the tape Estelle left, she explained the reason for her request for the music being played.

Her mum was a very good pianist and the family enjoyed many happy hours around the piano. When her mum took ill, it saw her bed-ridden for four years before she died, but her joy was listening to the radio as she could no longer play the piano.

One day, Estelle came home to find her mum very excited, listening to "Today is the happiest day of my life" by Joseph Schmidt. (This was the piece you heard at the beginning of this service.)

Ada thought the song was beautiful—as did Estelle. Every time Estelle has played it since it always reminded her of her mother.

Estelle attended Eastwood Public School then went to Carlingford School where she only spent a few years before leaving school due to the Depression. She found work in the Federal Match Factory, where she remained until she married. Always fiery by nature and a born redhead, it was ironic that she also worked for "Redhead Matches"!

In the mid 1930's, Estelle was introduced to a young man called Bill, by her cousin, Keith Barry. It was not "love at first sight" between Estelle and Bill. She actually thought he was funny because he liked to whistle all the time. Bill won her over and they married in 1938 when Estelle was 21. They married on Estelle's mum's 50th birthday. Sadly, her mum died the next day.

Estelle and Bill settled in Epping where she lived for the rest of her life—70 years! They bought the house from Bill's mother so the house has always been in the Lindsay name.

Theirs was a wonderful marriage of 56 years. Bill liked to take Estelle to Military Tattoos, which was interesting because Estelle couldn't stand the bagpipes! However, she always went with him. They had a wonderful celebration at the family home for their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Soon, children came along, with Geoffrey first, then Linda, Phillip and Bryan completing the family unit. Estelle was a great mother, terrific grandmother and great grandmother, she was known as Nina by both grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Estelle loved cricket and actually scored for the Epping Cricket Club for many years. She was also the Vice President of the Club.

She thought Channel 1 on TV was fantastic as it was devoted to sport. She watched it all hours, especially the cricket—Test series, the Ashes in England, 20-20 games—anything. She was quite partial to Andrew Symonds—he was her pin-up. The only sport she really didn't like was football.

Music was another of her interests, Estelle liked to keep her mind active. She was interested and up-to-date with the news and held strong opinions on local news. She did the cryptic crosswords out of the papers all the time, even those enormous week-end ones, she loved working her way through puzzle books. She was even doing those puzzles until 3 weeks ago!

You wouldn't want to disturb Estelle when she was watching "Inspector Rex" on TV, or the quiz shows. She adored Eddie McGuire and "Who wants to be a Millionaire" as she could read the choices, which were easier for her to follow.

Estelle was a great cook in her day and made the best rice puddings. It was not uncommon for her to cook for 20 plus people for Christmas, which she did for many years.

Above all, Estelle spent all the time she could in her garden and she appreciated the beauty of nature. She loved being out there and really did have green thumbs. She loved tending her garden and watching her flowers grow. Her special favourites were roses and lilies.

Estelle enjoyed the company of her neighbours and friends and many of them saw each other regularly. She was always the first to welcome new neighbours into the area.

By nature, Estelle was very determined and forthright. She called a spade a spade and you always knew where you stood with her. Strong-willed, Estelle could be stubborn at times, but at the same time she had a strong sense of fair play and was a true and loyal friend. She was always the first person to be there when anyone needed help and appreciated their loyalty.

Throughout her life Estelle enjoyed and maintained very good health with the greatest issue being a hearing difficulty over the last few years. She loved writing poetry and recently, after a fall, she wrote a poem about her fall, it was subsequently printed in a Home Care Magazine.

Estelle was generous, well-respected, and a loyal lady—with a wicked sense of humour.

She was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed.

(Estelle's poem—after her fall)

The Fall—by Estelle Lindsay

The 13th day of April, I landed on the floor

*The tiles were cold, I was in the nude
and was just inside the door.*

*Had to have the Ambo men get me on my feet,
It was quite good to leave the tiles and cover up my seat.*

*I really felt so silly, sitting there on the floor,
I couldn't move, I had to stay right there at the door.
The Ambo men lifted me, it was good to stand up straight,
They were very quick in coming. I didn't have to wait.*

*Two times now I've had their aid, 'cause I am now quite old.
I cannot balance properly, it goes with age, I'm told.
But still I cannot drop the years, they are here to stay
And I will have to take great care, in what I do each day.*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



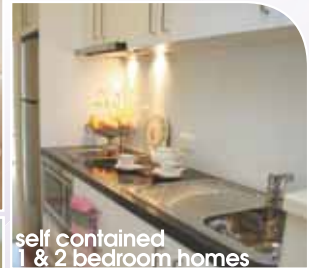
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Message from the Secretary

Dear Member,

Welcome to the new year of 2010. Our committee wish each of you a very happy and prosperous year ahead. We hope you enjoy reading our first Issue.

To all of our sick members, we are thinking of you and pray that your ailment does not dampen your positive outlook to embrace the future with the loving help of family and friends.

Do you have a sick member friend that we can contact to say "hullo"?— please let me, or any of our committee members, be made aware of him/her.

I ask you to pause and think of our soldiers who are fighting in war zones overseas.

We forget, sometimes, the very constant dangers they face daily.

I get a lot of media releases which inform me, among many matters, of our wounded and killed, but one tends to forget the reality of it all until we are "jolted" by a headline.

On the home front, those on email would have received my new address by now but if not, it is now in our magazine on Page 1 (Office Bearers).

We thank the many members who contacted us to wish us well.

Ruth and I will be very happy in our new home. The added bonus was that we did not have to move far

from our good neighbours and friends.

As I say in each magazine, once you have read it and don't wish to keep it, could you take it to your local doctor/pharmacist/Nursing Home etc, rather than put it in the recycle bin. We might just have a veteran in one of those establishments who may enjoy what he reads.

Kind Regards to all,



Alan Curry



Our Motto "ALWAYS READY" (SEMPER PARATUS)
Courtesy--Major Eileen Henderson.

Happy Birthday

JANUARY: Colin KLINE, Don JARMAN, Bill O'KEEFE, Barry PERIGO, Albert PERRY, Ken PHILLIPS, Chris STRODE.

FEBRUARY: Harding BURNS, Brett FERRARI, Terry FRY, Michael MORONEY, Brian TAMS.

MARCH: Barry COLLINS, Kevin HURRELL, Yvonne McLEAN, Charles O'MEALLY, Diana ROTHFIELD, Sr. Francis "Sue" THOMPSON.

Our Association wishes each of you "All the Best" on your "special" day – have you given me your month of birth?





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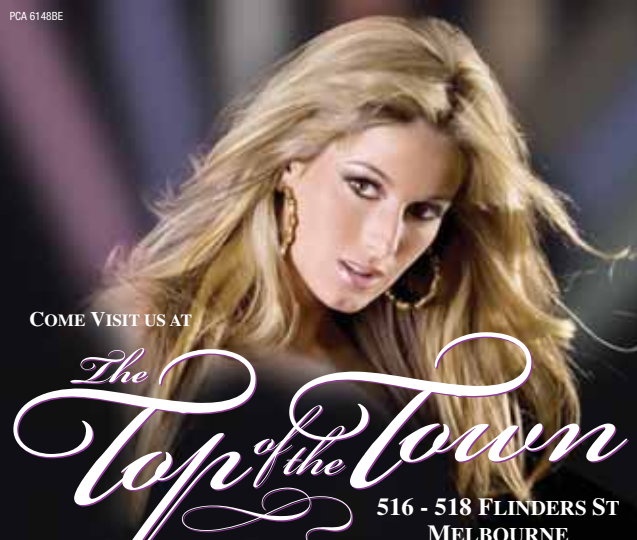
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ANZAC Day MARCH

We welcome your presence to march with us, in solemn remembrance of the supreme sacrifice paid by our comrades-in-arms in all present and past conflicts. Most especially in WW 1 and WW 2.

The format will be the same as last year. We will have our banner behind the main RAAMC Banner in "Battle Order" grouping of Medical Units.

If this is your first march with us, you will be made most welcome and you will be in the presence of fellow members.

Public Transport is FREE if you are wearing your uniform/suit and medals etc.

After the march you are cordially invited to join us, and other Medical Unit members, at the Paddington RSL Club, which is in Oxford Street. (It is nearly opposite Victoria Barracks.)

MARCH DETAILS:

FORM UP: Corner of Spring and Bent Streets, Sydney. (Look for our Banner)

TIME: 10.30am (Approx.)

DRESS: ADF personnel in Ceremonial. Our members in Lounge Suit and Corps Tie, and Official Medals, Name Tag and Beret.

Paddington RSL Re-Union (Post March)

Lunch will be a 3-course meal (Roast Beef or Roast Chicken (altern.) and will cost \$30 per head.

It is important that you notify Alan Curry (0427.824.646) or Theo Dechaufepie (0408.781.717) if you intend to have a meal with us or for any clarification.

POEM—ANZAC DAY

(Sent to me by our President, LTCOL Derek Cannon by email. With kind thanks to author, Ruby E. Ramm)

*The day is dawning in the east, the sky is pearly grey
as we gather to remember Australia's ANZAC Day.*

*Today in every heart will be, a prayer, a thought, a memory
for all those who fought and died, to keep our nation free.*

*The steady tramp of marching feet, the sound of Pipe and Drum
will echo all their deeds again and all the victories won.*

*Though history and time may pass, on silent wings away,
we still will honour, through the years, Australia's ANZAC Day.*



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Tapestry Handover from 5 Field Ambulance Association To The Trustees of the ANZAC MEMORIAL BUILDING Hyde Park Sydney

Member Kevin Hurrell acquired the 1st World War Tapestry on the NSW Central Coast early 2009. He presented it to 5 Field Ambulance Association at the Anzac Day March reunion at the Paddington RSL on 25th April 2009.

Kevin had alerted the ANZAC MEMORIAL TRUST about the Tapestry and they indicated they were keen to house and display the item once they had completed a refurbishment of their Anzac Memorial Building in Hyde Park Sydney.

The Association had the Tapestry framed including the history fixed to the rear.

The handover of the Tapestry to the ANZAC MEMORIAL TRUST took place at the HYDE PARK MEMORIAL BUILDING on 16th December 2009.

A copy of the donation agreement is shown and those in attendance from the Association and the Trust are shown on the photograph.

The names of those present from left to right looking at the photograph are:

Brian Tams 5 Field (Treasurer), Derek Cannon 5 Field (President), Anthony Clancy AMB (Deputy Manager), Kevin Hurrell 5 Field and Greg Read AMB (Manager).


THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANZAC MEMORIAL BUILDING
(INCORPORATED UNDER ACT27 1923) No. 1056

ANZAC Memorial Donation Agreement

I (We) hereby make an unconditional donation of the following item(s), which I (We) own, to the Trustees of the ANZAC Memorial, a body under the ANZAC Memorial (Building) Act of 1923, for use in accordance with the Memorial's Collection Policy. By signing below you surrender legal title to the items listed below:

Accession No.	Item/Description	Notes (Include Donor Name and Address)
(a)	<p>Embroidered "Souvenir of Egypt" Cloth 3" Light Horse Maker: Unknown Object Type: Heraldry Place made: North Africa: Egypt Date Made: 1918 Physical description: Cotton, cotton sateen, lace</p> <p>Description: Embroidered square souvenir cloth made of green and slightly faded red diagonally divided to represent the colour patch of the 6th Australian Light Horse Regiment, AIF. The cloth is edged with white cotton lace, and is embroidered with machine chainstitch in various colours to show the unofficial badge of the 6LHR, (a fighting cock with the words 'FIGHT ON FOREVER'), and the words 'From Roy to Jess & Frank with greetings from Palestine'</p> <p>See AWM item REL15150 for a similar item.</p> <p>There were ten boys in the 6LHR: Roy Madden Roy Miller Roy Morris Roy Lewis Roy Augustus Lavender Roy Clarke Roy Dibben Bayless Roy Throughgood Roy James Smith Roy Fraser Strachan</p> <p>There was also a Royden John Simpson and 4 with Roy as a second or third name (Bright, Brown, Williams, Cadden)</p>	<p>Kevin Hurrell 6 Marano Street Wyming NSW 2250</p> <p>On behalf of 5th Field Ambulance Association RAAMC</p> 





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The raffle tickets will be \$1 each and the winner will be drawn at our 2010 Annual "Mixed" Reunion lunch late next year (November).

The winner will receive half what we collect. Thank you in advance.

2010 Reunion Venue

Is it time we had a change of venue? As informal as it is, the Berkeley Hotel is getting a little "cramped" especially since the dining room was changed.

Some members feel that we should explore the possibilities of another venue.

Two that come to mind are the NSW Rugby League's Club in Phillip Street (it is near Martin Place Railway Station) I am a member of this Club, and the Burwood RSL Club (which is close to Burwood Railway Station).

Do any of our attendees (or any other member) have a suggestion re a Luncheon or a Dinner and where at and what date? We normally try for the middle of November only because it is close to Christmas but our committee is open to any suggestions.

CONGRATULATIONS

To members George Harris and Noel Moulder who were elected President and Vice President (respectively) at their Tuggerah Lakes Sub Branch of the National Servicemen's Association AGM.

(My kind thank to member, Barry O'Keefe, for letting me know.)

Thank You (From your Committee)

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

Thank you, also, for giving your "unwanted Magazine" to your local doctors/hospital waiting rooms/Nursing Home/local chemist /etc "Reading Rooms" for their enjoyment.

....To all the businesses that have paid our publishers to have their advertisement placed in our magazine.

....To our members who pay by EFT, thank you for identifying yourself. (There are some members who are a little behind with their Subs—any little effort is much appreciated.)

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

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 may now wish to discontinue to be on our Mailing List. We hope this is not so, but if it is please let me know and your wishes will be respected.



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5 CSSB Health Company NEWS

Our Association wishes the previous Training Warrant Officer, SGT Craig Ellem, good luck in his future career in civilian life. Craig resigned from the Army after he had completed his last term.

We now welcome SGT David Grace as the Health Company's new Training Warrant Officer. David was transferred from Darwin after 3 years serving with 5 RAR. He is married with two children and we wish David and his family good luck as they "settle in" to a new life in Sydney.

David said they have started the year by running CFA (Combat First Aid) and CFA Re-Certification Courses in support of 5th Brigade members deploying to Operation ANODE in the Solomon Islands.

Our group participated in an exercise with the NSW

Fire Service and this will now be a common activity within the Company Training program.

Our unit will supply medics for "range" activities and the Op Anode "rehearsal" in Townsville.

David said the second half of the year looks to be busier as reserve medics are called upon to support tasks within the Brigade.

Two of our people have left—CAP David Thompson has transferred to FULL TIME Service and CAP O'Flynn has been posted to 1 HSB.

Our Association would like to extend its congratulations to all the members of the Health Company, especially those of you who are also our members, and to SGT David Grace for the above information.

SICK PARADE



John A'QUILINA, Neil BARRIE, Don BOOTH, "Scotty" BOYD, Robert and Helen BOYTER, Derek CANNON, Kevin CARTER, David CAVANAUGH, Barry COLLINS, John DAVIES, Vic ("Bluey") DAVIS, John de WITT, George DONNELLY, Bert FERGUSON, Nelson FIORENTINO, Ray GRANT, Ray HARRINGTON (Merrylands (Sydney) Aged Care Centre), Kevin HURRELL, Neville JOHNSON, Sir Keith JONES, Ted KREMER, Bob LEECH, Huss MAHOMET, "Roy" McDONALD, Rayda NOBLE, Charles O'MEALLY, Chris O'REILLY, Barry and Heather PERIGO, John PHILLIPS, Maurice PORTER (Hayfield Court, Baptist Community Village, Carlingford), Peter ("Tommo") THOMPSON, Sr. Francis ("Sue") THOMPSON (Big Sister Hostel, Room 216, 2c Kanimbla Rd., Miranda), John TROY, Arthur WALTON, John WEAVER and John WOODHEAD.

MILITARY RECRUITING

How to recruit the right person for the job!

(With kind thanks to member, Alan Beckerleg)

Put about 200 bricks in some particular order, in a closed room with an open window. Send 2 or 3 candidates into the room and close the door. Leave them alone and come back in 6 hours to analyse the situation from CCTV footage.

- If they have stacked and counted the bricks: Assign to **Ordnance Corps**
- If they have recounted the bricks: Assign to **Pay Corps**
- If they have done nothing useful except make a huge mess with the bricks: Assign to **Engineers**
- If they have arranged the bricks in a strange order: Assign to **Clerical**
- If they make the bricks into a wall and insist on knocking it over with their heads: Assign to **Corps of Infantry** (without delay)
- If they insist on eating the bricks in the belief of hardening up: Assign to **Armoured Corps**
- If any bricks are broken and one candidate "dobs" them in: Assign 'him' to the **MP's** and the others to **RAEME**
- If the candidates are throwing the bricks in no particular direction: Assign to **Artillery**
- If they've already knocked off for the day: Assign to **RAAF**
- If they're staring out the window: Assign to **NAVY**
- Finally, if they are all sitting around talking to each other and no bricks have moved: Congratulate them and send them to **Duntroon**.



MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS

Chris O'REILLY wrote to express his thanks for the article we put in our June '09 newsletter regarding his good mate ("Fitzy"), who had recently passed away. Chris and his wife, Christine, had visited Fitzy's wife, Brenda, just recently in Victoria, and he said she was thrilled to read our article.

Chris said that Fitzy was a fanatical Essendon supporter and they all went to Windy Hill, Essendon, on November 4th to "scatter some of Fitzy's ashes" on the hallowed ground.

They then travelled to Healesville in the Yarra Valley, where Brenda was born and bred, and toured through the bushfire areas of Kinglake and Maryville. Chris remarked how the blackened stumps and trees are now shooting green re-growth.

After that, Chris and Christine re-visited WA to renew old friendships and unfortunately, attend some funerals.

Chris passes on his good wishes to all our members and hopes to meet some of us in the future. *(Thank you, Chris, for your letter. Hopefully, when you read this your health will be good.)*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Steve BALDICK has now moved into his new unit and said it was a hectic time to happen—over the Christmas period. Steve had to vacate by early December.

He passes on his good wishes for 2010 to all his friends in the Association. *(Thank you, Steve, I was pleased that Warren Barnes was able to make contact with you. Steve's new address is: 5/20 Kiora Rd., MIRANDA NSW 2228 and his phone number is: (02) 9525 3335.)*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Victoria GORRIE passes on her good wishes to her friends in the Association and has advised me that she has moved to Queensland where her family has their business. For her friends who may not know, her new postal address is; P.O.Box 661, Morayfield. Qld. 4506. *(Thank you, Victoria, we wish you well for your future.)*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Bill THOMPSON passes on his good wishes and advised me of a change of email address; billthompson@tpg.com.au *(Thank you, Bill, we hope you and Denise are well.)*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Susan SALVI wishes a good year for all her friends in the Association. She will be travelling overseas (Europe) from March until late June. Susan will be visiting her (Army) sons and is not sure if she will be "posted" overseas or "up North" on her return back home. Susan's postal address, until further notice, will be P.O.Box 290, Mawson. ACT. 2607. *(Thank you, Susan, we know your meeting with your two sons will be wonderful and we hope your future position will lead to better things.)*

"Bluey" DAVIS (Our bugler of the 2/5th) wrote to me in late December to wish all in the Association a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year for 2010.

Bluey said he and his wife, Bette, went to their local RSL Club (Ringwood) for a very enjoyable Christmas dinner.

Bluey said he was "over the moon" because 5 weeks before the Melbourne Cup he got the fantastic odds of 25 to 1 for the winner ("Shocking").. "That's not bad for an old bloke of 90"? he wrote.

I just recently received another letter from "Bluey" and among other matters he enclosed a joke that I would like to share with you.... *A soldier received a telegram from his wife... "Not getting any better, come home." He said to his mate... "I didn't know she was sick!" His mate read the telegram and said... "The comma is in the wrong place. It should have said... "Not getting any, better come home!"*

(Good on you, Bluey, the win couldn't happen to a nicer person. You and Bette take care. We hope the hot weather is not too "draining" on either of you, and likewise the terrible hailstorm damages. I hope you don't mind sharing the joke, it will bring a chuckle to most of our members.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

John OVERTON wrote to me, last year, just after our "cut-off" date to our printers. He passed on the season's greetings and a prosperous New Year in 2010 to all his friends and members of our Association.

John is a member of the CDF Health Executive and this allows him to contribute to the health needs of our ADF members, especially when they are deployed overseas.

It also enables him to maintain the importance and continuity of our "traditions" especially with all the medical Associations.

John thanked us for the prompt dispatch of the NEW Medical Corps Tie and hopes to "catch up" with some of us at the RAAMC Inc. (NSW Branch) in February.

John also wrote that he was pleased to be present at the RF "Launch" with his wife, Charlotte, who was also pleased to be able to put a face to my phone calls from 5 Field Ambulance Association.

(Thank you, John, for your letter and kind words. It was a pleasure to meet your wife, Charlotte.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

John ROCHE wrote to pass on his good wishes to his friends in the Association. He mentioned that he attended a meeting in February and "ran into" an old friend, Dr. Harry Learoyd.

It appears that Harry was a member of 5 Field Ambulance in his early years; he has since retired and loves his golf.

John was kind enough to enclose the poem "How I won the V.C." – an extract from the "ANZAC BOOK", which I have given to our publishers to include when room permits.

I rang John's home to get some more details on Dr.



Learoyd and was greeted by a Mr. Charles Murray, who is a poet.

In the course of our conversation we exchanged addresses and he will send me a poem (or two) that may be of some joy to our readers in future issues of our magazine.

He also, just recently, sent a letter and also enclosed a copy of "The Friends of the 15th Brigade" newsletter.

The current Executive member of the FFAIF (*Family and Friends of the 1st A.I.F.*) is Lambis Englezos AM.

(I wrote a poem by Jim Brown, titled "FROMELLES", (see Christmas Newsletter 4'08, page 36) who was inspired by the dedication of Lambis Englezos's efforts to have "Authorities" find, and then identify the hundreds of Australian (and other) bodies in mass graves in Fromelles (Pheasant Wood).)

The newsletter concerns mainly the 15th Brigade HQ and the four battalions (57th, 58th, 59th and 60th).

The 60th Battalion is very "special" to John and his brother, Jim, because their step-father, Eugene Marlo Hayres, fought with the 60th and was wounded. They thought very highly of their step-father.

I found John's newsletter most interesting, especially with first hand accounts of treasured letters kept by loving families that were written by their loved ones, so long ago and now long gone.

I would be very happy to post this newsletter to you or if you know of a friend whose relative/s served in WW 1 in 15th Brigade and would like to join FFAIF, I can post it to them.

As John was writing, he was "sipping a cold beer from his 5 Field Ambulance Association (OAM) tankard. He said that he and Jim attended the "COBBERS" Statue unveiling near the Melbourne Shrine on the St Kilda road corner.

John is still "brewing" his own beer and it is now over 180 "brews" he has put down!

He said he still belongs to the "single malt society" to keep up with the advice he received a long time back from the (past) Honorary Colonel, "Black Jack" Callaghan.

John was in the Mess one night and COL Callaghan came across and said..."What will you have, Doc?" I replied "...A beer, sir." ..."Beer is only for sergeants, you'll have a whiskey!" he roared at me, as only Black Jack" could. I've never forgotten!

(Thank you, John, for your letters and the "V.C." poem. I have since contacted Dr. Harry and sent him a complimentary copy of our last magazine. The FFAIF newsletter is a great read, I did enjoy reading those "first-hand" accounts.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

John and Margaret GORRELL pass on their good wishes to their friends in the Association. John wrote to apologise for not being able to make it to our annual re-union but hopes to see us on ANZAC Day.

(Thank you, John, for your letter and kind words. We hope you can make it down from the Gold Coast.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ted KREMER passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association.

He has advised me that he has just discovered a limited supply of our previous RAAMC Corps Ties. If any of our members (or their friends) would like to purchase one

please contact me with your details. The cost is \$35 per tie. *(Thank you, Ted, I am sure that we still have some members that would be interested.)*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Don BOOTH sends his kind regards to his friends in the Association and is hoping to join us on ANZAC Day.

Don had a heart "scare" last year but said he is better now. He spoke very highly of the treatment he received at Cairns Hospital and later at Cairns Private Hospital.

Don and his mate, Terry, are hoping to do another overseas trip to the U.K. later in the year, all going well. *(Good on you, Don, sorry I was unaware that you were ill but it is good to know you are almost back to your old self.)*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Peter PAISLEY passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association.

He replied back to an email I sent to all of our members, titled "I am Tired". It had Peter making some biting comments but he ended up by saying ...*"Jazz always keep you young"*.

This is because Peter is a member of a jazz/blues group who call themselves "The Washboard Wizards" and just recently he celebrated his 70th Birthday and he and his group kept the gathering in good spirits.

He finished his email with the Latin words..."*noli carborundum illegitimis*"—(I'll let our Latin readers interpret this?)

I understand that "The Washboard Wizards" are available for functions, I have included a photo that Peter sent me of his group—if you are interested in seeing the group in action—give Peter a call on; (02) 9698.7071 or you can email him at; horse.shit@bigpond.com (Yes, it's fair dinkum!)

(Thank you, Peter, for your email and photo. My best wishes to you and "The Wizards".)



Geoff Power (sousaphone), Jack Wiard (clarinet), Paul Barry (banjo), Bob Barnard (trumpet) and Peter Paisley is at the rear.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

John DAVIES wrote just prior to Christmas and asked to pass on his good wishes to all his friends in the Association.

John and his wife, Moira, have not had a good year healthwise with one thing after another.



The only redeeming feature from a horrible year has been able to visit their children and grandchildren as often as time permits.

They are very proud of their grandchildren's achievements with some now approaching their "L" plates.

(Thank you, John, I was sorry to read the majority of your letter but I know what a fighting spirit you and Moira possess. You both seem very positive and accept your lot—I am glad your children and grandchildren give you heaps of enjoyment. I look forward to "catching up" in the future.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

James JORDAN passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association. He passed me an email to say how proud he was that his wife, Carol, had received a "surprise" Australia Day Medallion Certificate from the Air Vice-Marshall, M. Skidmore.

Carol is employed at the ADF Basic Flying Training School in Tamworth. She works in the Orderly Room as an Admin Clerk and has been there for about 8 years, the Certificate shows how much they appreciate her contribution and willingness. *(Good work, Carol, we also are proud of you.)*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Roy CROSSLEY sends his good wishes to all his friends in the Association.

He and his wife, Betty, have again been invited to be seated at the foot of the Saluting Dais at the Sydney Town Hall.

Roy is part of the "16's"—these were boys of 16 years of age who put their ages up, mostly without their parents permission, to join the A.I.F. in WW 2.

After the March they have been invited back to Government House for informal talks and lunch, with the Governor, M/s Quentin Bryce AC.

(Well done, Roy, and Betty, hopefully we can see you in the front rank on ANZAC Day. Roy has also advised me of his "new" email – crozzie10@bigpond.com.)

"HILLBILLY 'DAYVORCE'

(With kind thanks to an email sender)

A "hillbilly" farmer wanted to get a divorce and paid a visit to a lawyer.

The lawyer said..."How can I help you?"

The farmer said..."I want to get one of them dayvorcees."

The lawyer said..."Do you have any grounds?"

The farmer replied..."Yes, I do sir, I have 40 acres."

The lawyer said..."No, you don't understand. Do you have a suit?"

The farmer says..."Yes sir, I do, I wears it to church on Sundays."

The lawyer says..."No, no, I mean do you have a case?"

The farmer replies..."Well no sir, I don't have a Case, but I have one beaut John Deere and I reckon it's better than a Case."

The lawyer said..."No, No, I mean do you have a grudge?"

The farmer replies..."Yes sir, I do got a grudge, that's where I parks the John Deere."

The lawyer is getting a little exasperated and asks..."Does your wife beat you up or something?"

The farmer replies..."No sir, we both get up at 4.30am."

The lawyer is beside himself and asks..."Look, Is your wife a nagger?"

The farmer replies..."No sir, she's a little white gal, but our last child was a nagger and that's why I wants a dayvorce!"

NEW MEMBER/S

Robert SHILLINGSWORTH JP is most cordially welcomed to our ranks. Robert is a Malaya/Borneo and Vietnam veteran as well as CMF service. Robert is also a member of my Lemon Tree Passage and Districts Sub Branch, he read one of our magazines and obviously liked what he read.

We look forward to reading more of Robert's story in the near future. Thank you for joining us, Robert.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Maurice PORTER is cordially welcomed to our Association.

Maurice's name was mentioned at the 2010 RFD "Launch" last November when he, along with others, was honoured as a volunteer who served in the militia prior to joining up when WW 2 started.

Our member, David Cooper, was the RFD official who brought to my attention that Maurice was a member of 5 Field Ambulance prior to the outbreak of war and he kindly sent me Maurice's story.

With Maurice's permission I will obtain more of his experiences for inclusion in a future magazine.

When I received David's letter about Maurice I made contact with his wife, Barbara, and just recently he applied to join us.

At this present time, Maurice is being cared for in the hostel section of Hayfield Court, which is part of the Baptist Community Village at Carlingford. Maurice suffers with dementia but otherwise he is in good health.

KIND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(Of monies received since last newsletter of December 2009.

Please contact me if your name has been omitted.)

- **David COOPER** (Cheque \$15) for Subs
- **Victor ("Bluey") DAVIS** (Cash \$30) for Subs 2009 and 2010
- **John and Margaret GORRELL** (Cheque \$30) for Subs
- **Geoffrey LINDSAY** (Cash \$20) for Key Ring
- **Chris O'REILLY** (Money Order \$20) for Subs \$15, and Raffle Tickets (B38-42) \$5
- **John OVERTON** (Cheque \$100) for Corps Tie \$40 and Donation \$60
- **Maurice PORTER** (Cheque \$15) for New Member Subs
- **Robert SHILLINGSWORTH** (Money Order \$145) for New Member and LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$100, RAAMC Coin and Token Set \$25 and Name Badge \$20
- **Rob STEWART** (Cash \$15) for Donation *(omitted from December 09 Magazine)*



POEM — MATES

(Sent by our ASM, Fred Bell, by email in April '09)

It seems that the Australian story teller, Murray Hartin, (author of “Rain from Nowhere”) was speaking at a Charity function in Roma, Queensland, in 1998.

A Mr. Warwick Butler approached him with a poem his late father, Duncan, had penned—it was simply called “Mates”.

The poem left us spellbound, even a few tears were shed. Duncan had enlisted in the Army during WW 2. He was captured and spent 3 ½ years as a P.O.W. working on the treacherous Burma Railway.

This poem may strike a chord during ANZAC week.

MATES

*I've travelled down some dusty roads, both crooked tracks and straight,
and I have learnt life's noblest creed summed up in one word—'MATE'.*

*I'm thinkin' back across the years, a thing I do of late
And these words stick between me ears... 'You gotta have a mate'.*

*Someone who'll take you as you are, regardless of your state,
and stands as firm as Ayers Rock, because he is your mate.*

*Me mind goes back to '43, to slavery and hate.
When man's one chance to stay alive depended on his mate.*

*With bamboo for a billy-can and bamboo for a plate,
a bamboo paradise for bugs, was bed for me and mate.*

*You'd slip and slither through the mud and curse your rotten fate,
but then you'd hear a quiet word... 'Don't drop your bundle, mate'.*

*And though it's all so long ago, this truth I have to state,
a man don't know what lonely means 'til he has lost his mate.*

*If there's a life that follers this, if there's a Golden Gate,
the welcome that I want to hear is just... 'Good on ya, mate'.*

*And so to all who ask us why we keep these special dates,
Like ANZAC Day, I tell 'em... 'Why?' ... 'we're thinkin' of our mates'.*

*And when I've left the driver's seat and 'anded in me plates,
i'll tell Ol' Peter at the door... 'I've come to join me mates'.*



My Kimberley Cruise "Tour"

by "Scotty" Boyd

In late April 2009, I flew up to Darwin for a few days tourist sightseeing before commencing a 14 day Kimberley Discovery Cruise.

It was quite hot, however I managed to enjoy walking around the city and did a couple of short tours including visiting the various sites for the defence of Darwin against the Japanese. The memorial on the coast was very interesting and it was good to be reminded of what happened in the region. The museum is well worth a visit.

I then flew (part of the tour cost) over to Kununurra in Western Aust., where we travelled by bus, a 120 k's journey through the arid country to the small town, Wyndham, on the far north West Coast. Along the way we glimpsed some of the agricultural sites that have come into being from the Ord River Scheme.

Due to the massive tide fluctuation, our vessel was "parked" out from the shore, and we boarded thru transfer on a dingy and rubber duckie. Transport we would see much more off, during the voyage.

Our boat, the MV "Discovery 1", was 25 metres in length with 4 decks (top one open to elements, but with a large sun screen cloth overhead for part of it), and although the toilets etc were not in our cabins but on a lower deck it never was a problem for any one (and I have Irritable Bowel Syndrome).

There are comfortable cabins (with air con) for 22 (our group, a great bunch of people, easy to get on with).

The temperature was mainly about 39 Celsius for most of the time, so a good deal of time was spend either on



the upper deck with the sea breeze or down in the air conditioned lounge and lots of laughter was common in these areas.

Food whilst not in the luxury category that some of the more expensive operators advertise, is best described as good value, had variety, and was tasty and plentiful, while beer/wine etc was available and reasonably priced. During the most wonderful evenings before dinner, after a busy day, on regular occasions, happy hours with lovely nibbles to whet the appetite were provided.

The price of the trip on this vessel was about half price to some of the larger ones that do this tour, but we had no complaints at all and in fact I think we probably enjoyed a more casual atmosphere in all aspects of the trip.



This particular cruise was created (early in the main season) to enjoy the end of the "wet season" which is responsible the creation of the big rivers, and I do mean BIG (there's Berkeley, Prince Regent, Drysdale, Hunter etc) of the Kimberley Coastline.

Our end destination was Derby with a coach transfer to Broome. The cruise was really great and days were spent either relaxing with a book on board, or investigating hidden creeks in our tenders or going ashore into areas that very few people have ever set eyes on.



We visited some fantastic beaches but unfortunately (owing to sharks, crocodiles and marine stingers) we were unable to do much swimming at these points. Luckily most days we would have the opportunity to hike up the local creek tributaries, well above the danger mark, and relax in rock pools and bathe.

This did incur some moderate bush bashing and climbing which was an adventure in itself and most people joined in the fun of getting there and the rewarding cool off.

To be fair tho, a couple of the side trips did involve some additional effort, but it was carefully explained to all, so that they could gauge whether to participate or not. I decided to miss one, but in retrospect I'm sure I could have completed it OK.

It is very difficult to adequately describe a lot of the stunning scenery encountered. But suffice to say there were many really superb waterfalls (both large and small), wonderful aboriginal rock paintings, huge red cliffs, and some magnificent flora including the unusual boab trees.

But I am just so glad of experiencing it myself

At night the sunsets (and to a big degree, the sunrises also) were a delight and we never got sick of taking photos of them, even if it meant getting up at 5.30am.

Big amount of editing, when I got home but that's the joy of digital cameras eh!!!

The highlights of the trip (and there were too many too itemize) were, a magnificent King George Falls, watching a 12 foot "saltie" croc lazily floating in the current next to the boat as the sun set on the Hunter River, Kings Cascade (where we enjoyed a shower on our bow, under the falls), the view of Mts. Trafalgar and Waterloo, the rushing tidal area of Montgomery Reef, the aboriginal art at Raft Point, the wonderful Horizontal Falls and Tawny sharks of Talbot Bay and the hospitality at the unique Squatters Arms, on Silvergull Creek, where we all enjoyed sitting in the warm springs pool with a cool beer or wine to compliment the unique property.

During the latter part of the trip, I celebrated my 68th and the crew put on a surprise cake, presented me with a memento T-shirt and cap, whilst the wonderful friends I had made, made sure my glass wasn't empty for long. I was careful to take it easy though -not like in my younger days.

This trip was something I had been wanting to do for years. And it was pure Magic.

For further information on the tours, please see www.kimberleydiscoverycruises.com.au

Thank you,

Scotty Boyd



Items of Interest

(1) **Bill JONES** is a good friend and neighbour. I was fascinated by the story of his experience, in the navy, during WW 2 and asked him if he minded if I took some notes. If space permits I will include it in this issue.

(2) **Rayda NOBLE** emailed me to say ROTA (*Rats of Tobruk Association*) (Vic Branch) handed a donation of \$1.5 million to the Royal Children's Hospital. (*I mentioned the sale of the ROTA hall in Victoria (refer 4'06 and 2'07 Newsletters) that businessman, Bill Gibbons, had bought the hall and donated it back to the vets for their continued use.*)

The money was donated and will be used by the hospital to pay for an Annual Fellowship for the Neuroscience Dept. The Neuroscience Unit has been named "The Rats of Tobruk Ward".

Rayda is looking forward to seeing her friends at Tobruk House on ANZAC Day.

(3) **Dr. Ian JACOBS** is a friend of our Association and sent me a poem by (the late) Thomas J. Raine, a member of the 2/5th Australian Field Ambulance A.I.F.. When space permits I will gladly place it in one of our Magazines.

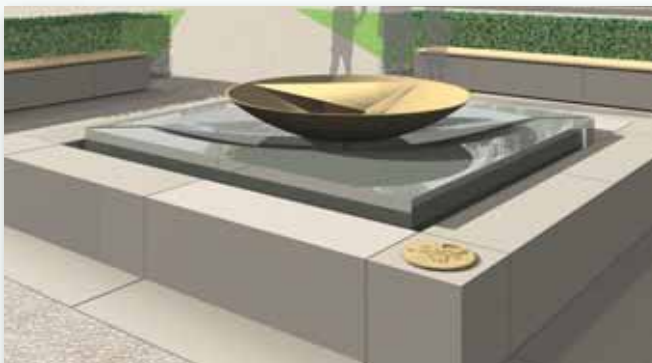
(4) **Noel MOULDER** is one of our members and among other important voluntary offices he holds is that of Secretary of the National Executive Committee of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia Inc.

Noel kindly sent me some very pertinent information on the coming Dedication of the National Service Memorial to be held at the Australian War Memorial on the 8th September 2010.

Work began just after ANZAC Day, 2009, to build a fountain and surrounds on the eastern side of the main entrance. It will hopefully be completed by this ANZAC Day, 2010.

The water in the fountain will be recycled water; the plinth will be sandstone and will match the existing War Memorial. The stone will also be used for the surrounds and seating.

A highly polished, black granite slab will come from South Australia with hollowed out shapes, and the bowl will be solid cast bronze.



The Tri-Service Badge from the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal and the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force will be reproduced, in bronze, on the four corners.

The water in the bronze bowl represents the Navy, the sandstone plinth represents the Army and the Air Force is represented by the sky reflected in the polished black granite slab.

The Memorial is intended to be non-triumphal and to invite reflection.

It will honour the 212 National Servicemen who died on Active Service – 2 in Borneo and 210 in Vietnam.

It also commemorates the 287,000 young men who were "called up" in two schemes between 1951 and 1972 for service in the Navy, Army and Air Force.

The details of the September proceedings are:

National Servicemen will assemble from 9am on ANZAC Parade, Canberra.

DRESS: National Servicemen's Association dress code or suit and Jacket and Tie.

Wear your ANSM Medal among those you are eligible to wear.

We will march as ONE GROUP without regard of Service, State or Scheme and be led by The Australian National Flag and the National Servicemen's Memorial Pipes and Drums, followed by the 1951 FIRST YEAR group with the other year groups marching behind in Intake year.

(There will be an adjacent area set aside for the static display of unit and Associations' flags and banners.)

Wheelchairs will be included in the individual year group PROVIDED the participant is in the care of a competent carer. *(The last part of the march route is gravel and steep—you must notify your National Servicemen's Association if you intend to participate.)*

Relatives will NOT be permitted to march.

"Quick March" will be ordered at 10am and we will march up ANZAC Parade to the War Memorial, followed by the Dedication Ceremony at 11.30am.

The Governor-General, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC will be present.

There will be a reception, in the evening, in the Great Hall of Parliament House where the Prime Minister, The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP has been asked to host.

This event will be by Invitation only for National Servicemen and their partners—PLEASE submit your name/s as early as possible as the limit is 1,000.

CONTACT: Mr. Noel Moulder; by mail—P.O.Box 6203, Long Jetty, NSW 2261

OR email nashotuggerah@bigpond.com

ACCOMMODATION: Please visit the web site; www.visitcanberra.com.au



I am planning on attending and marching with the '56 Intake. If other members are eligible and interested in attending, please contact me when you read this.

(5) MEDIA RELEASES (with kind permission of Dept of Defence — edited for space and in no particular date order).

(A) ADF Cadets

A Review, conducted recently by a 3 person committee headed by LTGEN Frank Hickling AO CSC (Retd), produced a 97-page report with its recommendations (see www.defence.gov.au/dpe/cadetreview/).

The Review was commissioned to consider how the ADF Cadet Scheme could be improved to ensure that it reflects the community expectations for a youth development organisation.

The Review considered and identified, through community consultation, the objectives, accountability and transparency that the Cadet Scheme should be.

The Government will implement some of the 48 detailed recommendations and have committed an additional \$10 million per year until 2017/18.

The Government has also recently announced a Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal Inquiry into recognition for Cadet Officers and Instructors.

Submissions will be called for and will close on Monday, 19th April, 2010.

Any interested member may make a submission to; Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal, Locked Bag 7765, Canberra Business Centre, ACT. 2610 OR via email to: DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au

(B) Operation Slipper

MRTF 2 (Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force—2), a 730 strong, Townsville-based Battle Group, has just completed more than 8 months of intense operations in Afghanistan.

In their "Tour of Duty" they have overseen a stronger Afghan National Army 4th Brigade, a visible security presence for Afghan locals in Oruzgan Province, education opportunities for local children and a new medical centre.

Their C.O. LTCOL Andrew Hocking praised his force for their achievements.

He said they worked tirelessly and often in hazardous conditions, set against the backdrop of a threat level which saw the joint Afghan and Australian patrols respond to 43 IED's (Improvised explosive devices), 27 indirect fire attacks and numerous armed contacts with the Taliban.

They have established new patrol bases which have offered greater security for locals in the Mirabad, Chora and Beluchi valleys.

Among their many successes was the discovery of approx. 90 weapons and ammunition caches and 45 IED's.

They maintained the high tempo of reconstruction work set by their predecessors, which included the construction of a Waste Management Facility in Tarin

Kowt, a Boy's High School and a Primary School, a medical centre and a 116 metre, all-weather river crossing.

LTCOL Hocking reminded his unit to remember their fallen comrades--of the price paid with the death PTE Benjamin Ranaudo and the wounding and injuries of 31 members of the Group.

He said it is time to rest and rehabilitate with our families and then prepare for any future challenges in the interest of our country.

LTCOL Hocking handed over his authority to the Brisbane-based MRTF 1 who will carry on with on-going projects like the construction of a Girl's High School in Tarin Kowt and Malalai and the redevelopment of the Oruzgan Ministry of Energy and Water Compound.

(C) The Australian GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL for Korea

Her Majesty the Queen has now approved this award. The Government will implement the recommendations of the Post-Armistice Korean Service Review.

The Award will recognise former Defence Force personnel who completed 30 days participating in operations in South Korea during the Post-Armistice period from 28 July 1953 to 19 April 1956.

It covers any location WITHIN 161 kilometres seaward from the coast of South Korea.

It is expected that the medal will be available for dispatch to some eligible recipients prior to ANZAC Day 2010.

If you think you have an entitlement to this award (and have NOT previously applied) please contact;

The Directorate of Honours and Awards, Department of Defence, P.O.Box 7952. CANBERRA BC ACT 2610. There is a toll free number within Australia; 1800.111.321 or from outside Australia; +612.6266.1050.

(D) F-35 Joint Strike Fighter

The Government has approved the acquisition of the first batch of 14 of this "next generation air power" of fighter aircraft.

This is at a cost of \$3.2 billion which includes all infrastructure and support required for initial training and testing.

It is expected that the first batch will be delivered to the US in 2014 with planned operational use at Williamtown RAAF Base (Port Stephens-NSW) in 2018.

Further cost estimates will be carried out in 2012 for the 2nd batch. All going well it is hoping to have three operational squadrons (72 Aircraft) in service by 2021.

To date, 25 Australian companies have won approx. \$200 million in development and early production phase.



(E) Two Caribou aircraft retire

A4-140, the oldest Caribou, retired to the Australian War memorial in late November 2009.

The A4-152 also retired to the RAAF Museum at Point Cook. This aircraft accumulated 20,360 flying hours.

It arrived at RAAF Richmond on 13 June 1964 (with two others) and has seen service in Vietnam (1967/68) and was in fact damaged and sent back to Bankstown (Sydney) for repairs.

It has also seen operations in Sumatra 1971, with the UN in 1975/6/7/8. Survey flights in West Irian in 1976.

It served on humanitarian support missions in the Solomons in 1980 and 2003 and on Peace-Keeping missions in East Timor in 1999.

(F) Defence Air Traffic Controllers go to Haiti

The Government has approved the deployment of a small team to go to Haiti to assist with air control in this earthquake-ravaged area.

The five personnel will assist their US counterparts in Port-au-Prince to control military and civilian aircraft.

The RAAF ATC's have also deployed with distinction in Baghdad, Sinai, Somalia, East Timor, Solomon Islands, Banda Aceh and Sudan.

The ADF has an excellent reputation internationally for providing humanitarian assistance when emergencies such as this occur.

(G) AHS Centaur wreck found

Most of you would be aware by now that the wreck of the AHS Centaur was located by a "search team" on the 20th December 2009.

The hospital ship, which was well lit, was just east of Moreton Island, Queensland, when about 4am on the morning of the 14th May 1943 she was stuck by a torpedo from a Japanese sub.

The ship exploded and sank within minutes.

Of the 332 people on board only 64 survived. The majority were members of the 2/12 Australian Field Ambulance.

I notified our members who were on email of a National Service of Remembrance that was held in St John's Cathedral, Ann Street, Brisbane, on the 2nd March at 10am. All relatives and friends were invited to attend.

(I did not hear back from any of our members if they were able to go along and pay our respects.)



Our member, Major Eileen Henderson, has informed me of this year's AHS Centaur Memorial Service.

I would like to invite any of our members to accompany me to unfurl our Banner and show our support at this small, but very significant, Ceremony.

It will be held in the Concord Hospital (113 AGH) CHAPEL on the 12th May 2010 at 10am. Please wear lounge suit and Medals.

(H) Missing Patrolmen's Remains FOUND after 44 years

SAS Patrolmen, LT Kenneth Hudson and PTE Robert Moncrieff were part of an SAS patrol and were conducting border security operations during the Indonesian Confrontation between the Federation of Malaysia and Indonesia on 21st March 1966.

They failed to turn up at the RV point after becoming separated from the rest of the patrol, when they were swept away at a river crossing in West Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Extensive searches were carried out at the time, with no success. The remainder of the patrol returned back to base at Sarawak.

In 2008, the Army commenced an investigation to try and locate the remains of the two men.

The Australian Government sought and received immediate assistance from the TNI (Indonesian Armed Forces), also thanked the residents of Sanggau Province, who had discovered the bodies of the two soldiers and gave them respectful burials, and also the Army Investigation Team.

The perseverance of serving and ex-serving SAS members were able to recover the remains of the patrolmen, who were buried 6 klms apart from each other.

Now that their remains have been positively established, the long wait by their relatives and loved ones is finally over. They will be brought home and laid to rest with full military honours.

Biography of LT Kenneth Ambrose HUDSON—1936-1966

Ken was born in Brisbane on January 7th, 1936. He attended the Industrial High School in Brisbane and joined the Cadet Corps (1950-1955). As a teenager he enjoyed rugby and swimming.

He left school early to be an apprentice watch-maker and later joined Hornibrook Constructions as a builder's labourer.

Ken was conscripted into National Service and completed his basic training with 11 NSTB at Wacol in 1955.

He enlisted in the Regular Army on April 30th 1956 and was allotted to the Royal Australian Infantry. He served in the Airborne Platoon, 1st and 2nd RAR and progressed through the ranks to sergeant before being commissioned on the 9th September 1964.

He was posted to the SAS Regiment on 24th February 1965 and was allotted to 2 SAS Squadron as Troop Commander of "E" Troop.

The President of the Officer Selection Board described Ken as "absolutely dependable". Ken had the nickname "Rock" and he was as solid as a rock and could always be depended upon, he was conscientious and reliable.



LT Hudson completed all the "specialist" courses required by the regiment and set a high standard for both himself and his men.

His Squadron completed jungle training in PNG in December 1965 prior to being deployed on operations in Borneo during the Confrontation.

Ken and his Troop participated in long range cross-border surveillance patrols in Kalimantan.

Ken was a devoted family man, when relaxing, he liked talking about his wife Dawn and their baby son, John.

He was swept away during a river crossing on 21 March 1966.

Biography of PTE Robert Charles MONCRIEFF—1944-1966

Robert (Bob) Moncrieff was born in Hamilton, NSW on December 17, 1944.

He attended Cooks Hill High School and after attaining his Intermediate Certificate he left school and worked as a hardware salesman for the firm Fred Ash Ltd, in Newcastle.

Bob joined the army on April 21, 1964, and was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry. He underwent SAS selection in 1965 and was posted to the SAS Regiment in April 1965.

Bob came from 2nd Battalion, RAR with the rank of private and posting of driver/batman. He was posted to "E" Troop, 2 SAS Squadron, on January 13, 1966.

Bob was known as a person so "full of life" that anyone who came in contact with him immediately liked him. He was always there for anyone who needed a laugh or to run an idea past. It was said the Bob was neither the fittest or toughest soldier in the SAS but he was extremely dedicated and put in many extra hours of training to be the best soldier he could be. He said the proudest day in his life was when he was presented with his sandy beret (the beret worn only by the SAS).

Bob was a keen surfer from his early life in Newcastle and was an avid "bird-watcher" at Cottesloe Beach, on Sundays with his mates. He also loved parachuting and convinced his mates to buy a "share" in a second-hand sports chute, and they would spend many week-ends at Rockingham honing their sky-jumping skills.

Bob was swept away during a river crossing on 21st March, 1966.

(I) Australia's Navy Commander honoured by the King of Tonga

The Commanding Officer of the RAN's landing ship HMAS TOBRUK, Commander Peter Thompson, was honoured at a ceremony on the 21st November 2009.



The ceremony was held in the Royal Villa in the Tongan capital, Nuku'alofa.

Commander Thompson was being presented with "The Officer of the Royal Military Order of St George by the King of Tonga, George Tupou V.

(The Award is one of the highest military honours that can be awarded by the King of Tonga.)

It was presented in recognition of the humanitarian relief effort that the Australian Government and in particular, the ADF, provided in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the region on 30th September 2009. The "Tobruk" carried over 500 tonnes of humanitarian aid supplies and assisted local groups and agencies, like the Red Cross.

Commander Thompson said he was honoured and humbled to receive this Award on behalf of the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Government. He was pleased that they were able to ... "help our Pacific neighbours during a time of crisis"

(J) KING AIR 350 Aircraft from Army to RAAF

A ceremony was held at the RAAF Base in Townsville in late November 2009 to mark the "hand-over" of 3 King Air 350 aircraft from the Army Aviation's No: 3 Air Surveillance Squadron to the RAAF's No: 38 Squadron.

They will be joined by another 5 brand new, King Air's which will be delivered by mid 2010.

They will be used as an interim replacement for the ageing DHC-4 Caribou, which are due for retirement in 2010.

Chief of Air Force, Air Marshall Mark Binskin said..."The King Air 350 is capable of cruising at more than three times the altitude, has twice the speed and twice the range of the Caribou. It is ideally suited to moving people quickly across northern Australia and throughout the region."

The King Air 350 is interim until the future arrival of the new Light Tactical Fixed-Wing transport aircraft, to be selected under Project 8000 Phase Two.

Air Marshall Binskin said this transfer marks the end of more than 40 years of fixed-wing aircraft operations with Army, as they will now operate an all rotary-wing fleet of Black Hawks, Chinooks and MRH90's.

(K) COMBAT UNIFORMS

The Minister for Defence Personnel, Material and Science, The Honourable Greg Combet MP said that contrary to some media reports .."No Australian troops currently deployed or in training are wearing combat uniforms made from Chinese fabric."

A local manufacturer in Bendigo, ADA (Australian Defence Apparel) will provide camouflage uniforms under an interim arrangement.

ADA, in turn, will source material from Bruck Textiles in Wangaratta (Vic) for the contracted period.

(L) TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL—in AFGHANISTAN

An Australian-run TTS in Tarin Kowt, Southern Afghanistan (established by our first ADF Reconstruction



Task Force in 2006) is set to expand with a portable facility to be established in the Chora region.

The TTS teaches young Afghan men valuable carpentry skills and more than 200 young men have since graduated in this time. One of them now holds carpentry qualifications similar to that of a 4th year apprentice.

Army tradesman, CPL Brett Corrigan, said...*"the school is making a tangible difference to the lives of many Afghan men. Before, there wasn't any local work but now it is changing and there are local jobs. This is my second rotation and the school has grown since my last "tour" with new wood-working machinery and tool kits for graduates provided by AusAid"*.

The TTS now has 9 Afghan instructors, all of them graduated from the TTS. Many others are now employed by International construction companies in Tarin Kowt and elsewhere in the province.

(6) BOER WAR MEMORIAL

Some people would question why we need to have this Memorial to our soldiers!

It is because Australians gave their lives fighting for the British Empire.

Apart from us owing our allegiance to our Mother Country, England, the Boer War cost more of our soldier's lives than any other conflict, EXCEPT for World War 1 and World War 2.

It should not have taken this long for this significant conflict to be recognised. This war was the origin of the ANZAC.

The conflict will now be recognised with an official site being set aside on ANZAC Parade, Canberra.

The cost is estimated at \$ 3million but the government will not give any financial support unless the Australian community also supports it financially.

To this end, the committee is seeking donations from the general public and *donations of \$2 or more will be tax deductible.*

A logo is designed for use on business stationery for those able to donate to BRONZE (\$1,000 to \$9,999), SILVER (\$10,000 to \$49,000), GOLD (\$50,000 to \$99,000) and PLATINUM (\$100,000 and above).

(As well, the GOLD and PLATINUM donors will have recognition on National BWM material).

Donations may be made any of the following methods:

MAIL: Cheques made payable to; "Boer War Memorial Fund".
Post to NBWM, Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington. NSW. 2021.

EFT: BSB:803205, A/C Name; Boer War Memorial, A/C Number;20739876

Our member, Bill Molloy, is on the BWM committee and represents the RAAMC. (Bill's grandfather was the Transport Officer for 2 RNSWR in this war.)

The Boer War ended on the 31st May 1901 and it has been established that the nearest Sunday to this date will be recognised as the Day of Commemoration.

1899



1902

Bill and his committee have cordially invited any of our members to attend the FIRST official Ceremony at the War Memorial in Hyde Park (Sydney) to be held on SUNDAY, 30th May at 11am.

DRESS: Lounge Suit and Medals to be worn.

A Short discourse on the Boer War

(With kind thanks to the BWM Committee "Fact Sheet" and Wikipedia/Google)

In the late 1880's, when diamonds (and before that, gold) were discovered in the Transvaal and Orange Free State, a large influx of "Uitlanders" (foreigners--mainly British) came into the territory.

It eventuated that these "Uitlanders" wanted equality, so an "ultimatum" was issued by the British Colonial Secretary (Joseph Chamberlain).

This resulted in President Kruger rejecting the ultimatum and then giving all British troops 48 hours to withdraw from the border of the Transvaal.

A war was declared on the 11th October 1899 and lasted until the signing of the "Treaty of Vereeniging" on the 31st May, 1902.

This was the first war that Australians were involved in, as a nation, because the Commonwealth sent contingents after 1901.

About 23,000 Australians and 6,000 New Zealanders fought in most of the 37 campaigns, side by side on many occasions. These campaigns were recognised with a Clasp. Australians qualified for 18 Clasps and New Zealanders for 13 Clasps.

606 Australians and 232 New Zealanders lost their lives in this war. As well, Australia sent 43,000 horses to South Africa and none returned home.

This was the first war that six Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross and a further 161 Australians were awarded additional bravery medals.

Many of the officers of WW 1 were drawn from the men who fought in the Boer War.

(7) RSL "Reveille" (NSW Branch)

I have on hand Issue 1 and Issue 2 for 2010, and there is a lot of good reading for any of our members who may not be a member of a sub branch of the RSL.

If you would like me to post them to you, please contact me, I will gladly pass them on.

(8) Colonel John Vonwiller (Dec.)

I received an email (via our web site) from his daughter, Mrs. Laura Vonwiller Rutter, to say that she recently "clicked" onto our web site and was looking at our "Honour Roll" and noticed that her dad (the late) John Vonwiller did not have a date of death. Laura kindly advised me that her dad died of a brain tumour on the 5th July 1992.

I emailed back to thank Laura and sent her Bruce Whittet's Story (August 2009 Newsletter) because he wrote some kind words about John.



(9) RAAMC Painting:--"From Sudan to Afghanistan"



As previously mentioned in our last newsletter (page 31, Christmas newsletter 2009) and also in our President's "Message" in this issue, this "limited" edition print is now available.

MAJ John Straskye, President of the RAAMC Association Inc., advises that there are only 200 "numbered" prints that will be sold.

The No: 1 print has been "earmarked" to be displayed in a prominent place TBA in the near future.

The "Print" would be a valuable enhancement to any Mess Room and most particularly to a RAAMC establishment.

The "Prints" measure 850 X 600 and will cost \$250.00 each (plus postage).

A (simple) framed print will cost \$350.00 each (plus postage).

A framed print with matt and badge insert will cost \$450.00 (plus postage).

Postage Costs (in Australia) are:

Print only	= \$ 9.60
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" " Adelaide/Brisbane	= \$37.50
" " Sydney	= \$32.00
" " Melbourne	= \$23.00

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For further info please contact:

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All proceeds go to the RAAMC Corps Fund to assist serving and former members of the RAAMC.

(10) The Reserve Forces Day Council is asking all unit Associations to participate in the publicity build-up for this year's RF Day. (*First Sunday in July*)

To do this they are requesting us (along with other Unit Associations) to nominate a Public Affairs Officer.

Would you (*or your son/daughter/friend of our Association*) like to volunteer for this position?

You would liaise directly with the RFD Council's representative and you will receive advice, information and assistance and be schooled in making contact with

the media—thus gaining exposure for us and the coming RFD Parade in the Domain.

Please contact me, or any of our committee members, ASAP if this appeals to you—or if you know "someone" you think may be interested.

(11) SERVICE MEDALS. (*Kind Thanks to DH & A, Issue 8, October 2009, Defence Media Release 031/10.*)

The President of East Timor, His Excellency Jose` Ramos-Horta, offered our Government the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal to all ADF personnel who assisted in the establishment of stability and peace in East Timor from 1st May 2006.

Our Government accepted the offer and trusts that the medal will be worn proudly by our ADF Members who earned it.

(*A Media Release in early February 2010 also informed that the current ISF (International Stabilisation Force) Commander in East Timor, Commodore Stuart Mayer was also awarded the Medal of Merit (Medhala de Merito) which is one of the highest that can be awarded by the President. CDRE Mayer is one of a select few people from outside East Timor to receive this Award.*)

The qualifying service criteria for the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal is:- 180 days continuous service in East Timor from 1 May 2006.

Consideration will be given to personnel who served 120 days from 1 May 2006 OR 90 days from May/June 2006—extraordinary cases will also be considered.

Qualifying Period does not apply if death occurred in service in East Timor.

Have you an entitlement? Have you applied already? Please phone: 1800.111.321. You may be among the 7,000 who have already applied.

The Australian Defence Medal:

This medal was established on 30 March 2006 to recognise service by ADF personnel, whether service was FULL TIME or RESERVE, (*including National Servicemen*), who have completed 4 years of service. OR completed their TERM of ENLISTMENT—whichever is the LESSER.

So far 230,000 Awards have been processed to date.

Do you qualify? Have you applied? Do you want me to send you an Application Form? You may phone DH&A on 1800.111.321 for further information.

(12) My Sub Branch gets a 40mm Bofors Gun!

Just on 12 months ago a "friend" contacted me to say he heard that we were looking for a Gun for our sub branch. He knew where to get one, and put me in touch with the "contact".

Our executive and members of my sub branch (Lemon Tree Passage and Districts RSL Sub Branch) were 100% behind obtaining an Artillery "piece" to compliment our Memorial Stone.

After much "ground work" was completed, our President, Derek Cannon, sanctioned a letter to the Commanding Officer of 8 CSSB for their sub unit at Adamstown to assist, if at all possible.





Bofors gun

It subsequently transpired that a Training Exercise was conducted to recover the gun from a Woolgoolga Industrial Estate and deliver it to our parent club (Tilligerry RSL and Sports Club Ltd) in Tanilba Bay (NSW).

Six (Reserve) soldiers drove the Recovery Vehicles to the location in Woolgoolga on Saturday, 20th March 2010 and picked up the 3 tonne gun and delivered it to us on Sunday, 21st March 2010.

They were greeted by the President of the RSL Club, the Executive members of our Sub Branch, myself and some bemused locals and grateful member/patrons.

Certainly the gun is in need of some TLC but this will happen soon. We have to get the "pads" re-welded back on (they had to oxy-welded off due to width restrictions) and some cosmetic make-over, and site it on a permanent location.

The gun will probably be enhanced by a Remembrance Wall in the future.

"Letters of Thanks" have been, or are in the process of being, sent to all the major participants of this project.

(13) **Peter CONNORS** was just "trawling" through the internet late last year and "stumbled across" our web site whilst researching family history.

He said he read all the history on the site and was so glad he did, because it had led him to an army unit that his grandfather's brother was a member of—that being 5 Field Ambulance.

His name was James Herbert Connors and he was born in Herberton, North Queensland on the 11th October 1884. His dad was Michael McGuiness Connors, a blacksmith and his mum's maiden name was Margaret Josephine Lynch, she was a schoolteacher.

The family travelled vast distances in those early years because they went from north Queensland to a place called Boolcoommatta in South Australia and then back to Queensland before finally "settling in" at Lowry Street, North Ipswich.

James's father, and one of his brothers, Frank, worked on the Ipswich Railway Workshops—Frank served in the 49th Battalion.

At the time of his enlistment James was employed as a wardman in Townsville Hospital.

He joined up as a single man on the 16th October 1914. Army number 116 and after basic training he embarked at Brisbane, on the Troop Ship Transport A55 ("Kyarra") on the 21st November 1914.

It seems that James was sent to the Western Front. He served as a member of the following units; 1st Australian General hospital, 3rd Field Ambulance and 5th Field Ambulance.

It also appears that James had a somewhat colourful army career that, at times, ran foul with higher powers.

He was a corporal on 18/6/15 then a private 31/1/16 then back to corporal 1/2/16 then a sergeant on the 20/5/16 then back to private on the 16/1/17 and finally a lance corporal on the 6/8/18!

James must also have been made of some stern stuff because he earned a Military Medal and then a Bar to the Military Medal.

His Citation for the MM read:

"on October the 9th 1917, between Westhoek and Kit and Kat and north of Westhoek, a heavy barrage of fire was put down about 6.15am. Pte Connors was stretcher-bearing on this line, and in addition to passing through the barrage with a wounded man, he returned and bound up under the heaviest fire, and in the open, the more urgent cases helping or lifting them to such slight relative shelter as shell holes afforded, and finally dressed and splinted a severe case and brought him in.

Later, on the 10th of October, showed the greatest courage and set a splendid example by passing through three times with stretcher cases through a barrage which lay for over two hours on his path" (source; C'wealth Gazette No: 76. 23/5/18)

And the Bar to the Military Medal Citation read:

"This NCO was in charge of ambulance bearers attached to the 17th Australian Infantry Battalion, Australian Infantry Force during recent operations. On the 31st of August 1918 during our attack on Mont St Quentin, near Peronne, he volunteered to lead a party of stretcher bearers to a forward post through heavy fire to collect four wounded men. It was owing to this NCO's great courage and coolness in leading his men that these casualties were at length got to a position of safety. The post was under heavy machine gun and sniping fire at the time. He worked incessantly for 18 hours and displayed at all times an unselfish disregard of his own safety and devotion to duty".

(source; C'wealth Gazette No: 115. 10/10/19)

After James was discharged on the 24th January 1919, he went back to Queensland.

He never married and died at the young age of 36 in Corinda, Queensland, on the 21st June 1921.

(I sincerely thank his relative, Peter Connors, for all the information on one of his forebears. Peter added that there were scant details on James's private life and times, as his grandfather also died at a relative young age so these family stories were not passed on to Peter's dad.)



A Poem for ANZAC Day

(My kind thanks to Colin Newsome—I presume he is the author.)
(This was in possession of our late member, Arthur Gough)

*I asked a digger I knew, what happened to Blue, who used to be in your mob,
He had big freckled hands and could punch like Dave Sands, I know, I stopped one in me gob.
He said Blue gave his life for the children and wife of a man dear to them and to her,
In a bad jungle hole while out on patrol to find where the enemy were.*

*Blue's old mate, Curl, had a boy and a girl, and a wife he was longing to see.
Curl said perhaps if we contact the Japs they might have a homer for me,
On the shoulder or hand, just a scratch understand, you won't have to carry me out.
Just a wound on the wing, put my arm in a sling—if I see you in Blighty I'll shout.*

*No stretcher for me, my legs will be free I'll be able to walk down the "track"
To the good old Salvo's whom everyone knows are the first ones to meet you coming back.
Some coffee, a scone then I'll mozey on waving good-bye to the Nips
Then no more I'll roam when I'll travel right home on the best of the hospital ships.*

*Words spoken in fun 'till a Japanese gun spewed bullets through Curly's elbow.
Blue carried him in while the boys raised a din, with every last thing they could throw.
Then we kept our heads down beneath the hill's crown and grovelled around in the mud,
It was Blue's freckled hands that tightened the bands that stopped Curley's flowing of blood.*

*Our leader, a Lute, said there'll be no pursuit. If we slip away after night's fall,
We must report back, Curl's had a bad smack. Better risk one than lose all.
Blue turned to persuade, with gun and grenade, and cover, I'll give it a burl
If more come, he said, then we'll be all dead and there won't be a homer for Curl.*

*Blue cleaned them right out and put them to rout, the cross we erected still stands.
We laid him to rest and over his chest, we folded his big freckled hands.*

*As a gesture, I gave "Saluting the Brave", then what happened to Curly, I said,
He gave my shoulder a touch as though talking too much while slightly inclining his head,
And would you believe, he had one empty sleeve. I turned, gave the pokies a whirl
And I noticed his hair, though grey, was still there and rebelliously trying to curl.*



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This poem was “penned” by the late Tom Raine—a respected member of the 2/5th Australian Field Ambulance. It was kindly sent to me by a friend, Dr. Ian Jacobs, a Dental Surgeon. *With the kind acknowledgement of Tom’s family.*

A Toast to a Unit

*It started in '40—for some a bit later, to have a go at the job and get on with the caper.
A mixture of blokes, a concoction of souls. Their backgrounds so different, as apart as the Poles.*

*We had a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher or two, mechanics and storemen, just to mention a few.
Some from up north, running blocks on the Murray, some spivs from the city, making deals in a hurry,
Some to dodge paying that maintenance order, one wanted by coppers just north of the border.*

*There were jockeys and trainers, and a man of the church, and the ones joining up,
leaving mum in the lurch.*

*Some were old diggers, with their ages put back. One arrived with his axe tied up in a sack,
a would-be magician, one worked on the trams, one straight from the mulga where he used to sink dams.
Some sober as judges, and the cheeky young wags, while others confessed they did time with the lags.*

*A bookie, a driver, and a stunt man of note, and the one needing help with the letter he wrote.
The gamblers—the card games—the pennies—the swy, and the ringy slips the loser a quid to get by.*

*There were fat ones and thin ones, the short and the tall, with one thing in common,
they were volunteers all.*

*This cross section of people, of men and of youth, faced up to the task, and the moment of truth.
And when we think back—what these misfits had done. They helped make a unit that was second to none.*

*Now we look round the room; we think back on those years. We think of the anguish, we think of the fears,
And with thoughts ever conscious of time and of tide, those of us left toast the unit with pride.
We see one another—we consider our fate, now aged and grey-headed—but each one a mate.*



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MY STORY

(As narrated to Alan Curry, by Bill Jones)

I was born Wilfred Albert Jones (Bill) on the 10/6/1921 at 43 Eveleigh Street, Murray Bridge, South Australia.

My dad, Cyril John Noble-Jones, married my mum, Sophie Leith Freak, and they produced three children – myself, and my two sisters, Nell and Meryl. When dad married he dropped the hyphenated Noble-Jones and just kept Jones.

Dad was a fireman on Pacific and Mountain type locomotives with the South Australian Railways. We all moved to Mount Gambier when he gained his train driver's ticket in 1927.

I only attended primary school in Mount Gambier and did not go on to high school because I was not as academic as my two sisters—I could not concentrate on my studies. Mum and dad realized it was pointless for me to continue with school so I was allowed to leave when I was 14.

I secured a job (at 14) with the Mount Gambier Gas Company and also attended Tech courses, two evenings a week, learning woodwork and business correspondence. I attended Tech for two years.

Whilst at the Gas Company (I was now 16) I was placed with an experienced gas fitter who taught me gas fitting and gas plumbing.

When I was 17, the company had confidence in my ability to accompany the branch manager (who was a gas engineer) to “re-build” the Bairnsdale Gas Works in Victoria.

I, along with others, moved the gas works from a flood prone site to higher ground—it was 12 months work and a very big project. To my knowledge it is still there!

After this the company placed me at the Horsham Gas Works, for about 6 months, to install some plant. I then returned back to base at Mount Gambier. After 4 years I gained my gas fitting and gas plumbing ticket.

In June 1941, I tried to enlist in the navy.

(The reason I chose the navy was because of my grandfather. I never knew him but my dad had told me he was lost at sea in the late 1800's. He was a tug master, and on this fateful night he and



his crew went to retrieve a merchant sailing ship battling heavy seas off the coast of Port Adelaide. That was the last that was seen of either ship, or crews, again—they all completely disappeared.

This left my dad to care for his mother and his younger sister, Meryl. His mum died in 1907 and then he also went to sea before joining the SA Railways and then meeting his future wife, Sophie.

His sister, my aunty Meryl, lived a happy life and died in her late 70's a few years back.)

The navy rejected me because I was in a “protected industry”! I tried again in late 1941—same result.

It was at this point I told my manager that if he did not release me I would resign from the company. He relented and subsequently released me.

I tried to enlist as an ERA (Engine room artificer), because of my qualifications, but was told there was a 12-month “wait list”. The only available placing was as a stoker. I took it!

I was accepted in March 1942 and I, along with about 50 fellow recruits, alighted at the train depot near the Flinders Naval Base.

It was pouring rain and all we were allowed to bring with us was an empty suitcase.

An officer, and other ranking sailors, had us line up on the platform. The order was given “Raincoats OFF”! This caused quite a few of us some misgivings but the officer was serious.

We were then marched, in the pouring rain, about 3 or 4 kms to the Naval Base and arrived looking like drowned rats carrying our empty suitcases and raincoats!

We were then issued with all our navy gear and told to put our wet clothes in our suitcases!

It was then “full on” basic training for 6 weeks. I just seem to remember carrying my rifle up and down the parade ground monotonously. It seemed to me that I got inoculations every second day! It was a cold and miserable initiation into the services.

After Basic Training was completed, our postings were put on a Notice Board. My posting was to Townsville Base Staff – I was bitterly disappointed.

The troop train I was on was packed with Army, Navy and Air Force personnel. It was a terribly cramped and unpleasant journey.

I remember stopping at Mildura and being able to buy a pie. Everyone was hungry.

Another stop I recall was at Proserpine. I found a Barber's Shop (with the old striped Barber's Pole out the front) and asked the girl for a well needed hair-cut—what a glorious feeling!

We could not wash or shower and at best could only splash your face with water if you were lucky enough to find some.

It was about 6 days of very cramped train travel before reaching Townsville. I was with about another 20 or 30 navy men to arrive at HMAS Townsville.

We no sooner arrived at the base when about 10 of us (me included) were sent immediately to join HMAS Swan, which was tied up at a berth in Townsville harbour. *(She was having a boiler serviced and word had come through that a Jap submarine was in the harbour!)*





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We immediately put to sea and made many sweeping circles around the harbour and dropped many depth charges—all to no avail—if there was a sub there was no evidence showing.

We returned to our berth and tied up. My first experience at sea!

As soon as I stepped ashore from the "Swan I was sent to a Dutch merchant ship, "SS Swartenhondt", which was berthed nearby. There were 22 of us "seconded" to this vessel.

It was being loaded with ammunition, guns and stores for the troops at Milne Bay.

We had just stowed our gear when the air raid siren sounded—and then the bombs started falling.

Don't let anyone tell you it is not frightening—it was terrible and I was terrified. I headed for a large pile of sacked potatoes and buried myself in them. The scream of the bombs and the shock wave as they exploded when they hit the ground made me dig deeper and deeper into the spud pile. The "boomf-boomf-boomf" of the nearby ack ack guns as they engaged the Jap aircraft-- It was very nerve-racking!

When the "all clear" was sounded we found no damage, amazingly, to our cargo or our ship but the waterside workers had left!

There was a cargo superintendent and two foreman stevedores still there and they asked us if we could help them load the ship?

I said I could drive the steam winch (which I couldn't) and after nearly bringing down the topping gear a couple of times, one of the foremen took over (for safety reasons!).

It took about 2 days to complete the loading with the final help coming from the "wharfies" in battening down the hatches.

We had taken over from Indonesian and Javanese crew who never returned to the ship when it berthed in Townsville.

Our living quarters, if one could call them this, were barely livable. We had to hose out our cabins and wooden bunks, which were built over the scuppers, we spread our hammocks on the bunks.

I was one of 22 stokers and a Petty Officer who was in charge of us. He had his own cabin and food away from the men and he was not liked by any of us!

The cooking arrangements consisted of a Javanese cook who,

seemingly, "dished up" the same meal all the time—it consisted of a big bowl of "stew" and we did not know what was in it?

Many complaints were registered to our P.O., mainly by me, because I was about the eldest (20 years old), but they always fell on "deaf ears".

He was in his own world and did not want anything to spoil it. The officers, of course, had a chef to cater for them but the enlisted men got "short shift", unfortunately.

I got so frustrated on one occasion, at his lack of concern, that I "lost my cool" and I hit him—he still did nothing!

When at sea, the ship required 160 psi to keep its steaming speed. The day we had to leave Townsville harbour to join our convoy of 6 merchant ships, we had a lot of trouble to reach our speed but it finally happened about 4pm and we all sailed out of the harbour at dusk, in line, and heading north. There was about 600 miles ahead of us!

When daylight arrived there was not a ship to be seen from our convoy! We were not able to keep the steam up.

I was the only one who knew how to shovel coal into the boilers correctly, because of my training at the gas works.

We had two stokers who got badly burned because they did not heed the warning of ducking when they opened the boiler door when they were about to shovel the coal into the boiler.

(The boilers were Babcock and Woolcock agitator grates and it was important to get to the 160psi in order for the ash ejector to operate. If the ejector failed it became an arduous task to winch the ashes up to the deck—it happened not too frequently.)

We worked 4 hours on and 4 hours off whilst at sea. There were 3 boilers to stoke, around the clock, with just 22 men, and when those mates who got burnt could not work for a few days, the burden fell on to the rest of us.

As three were stoking, others were shoveling coal from the bunkers into wheel barrows and dumping the coal in front of the boilers. We also had to wheel barrow the ashes over to the ejectors.

It was back-breaking work for all the stokers.

On one occasion, one of the coal bunkers started to smoulder. It began releasing choking, green, acrid smoke

which quickly filled the boiler room. We shut the door and started to use another bunker.

The Chief Engineer came in and opened the smouldering bunker door disregarding our safety and our complaint. We made him get out but compromised by alternating with the two bunkers and hosing down the smouldering bunker!

The heat from the bunker affected the side of the ship until we reached Townsville when all the coal was removed from the troublesome bunker.

It was not unusual for the Chief Engineer (Dutch) to come from his engine room into the boiler room, with a flashlight and yelling for "More steam—steam—steam".

It was too much for me when I was "on shift"—I would pick up my shovel and run towards him yelling—"piss off out of here"! I knew only too well, as did all my stoker mates, the urgency of keeping up the 160psi.

Showering facilities were non-existent—it consisted of a bucket of water (fresh usually) and you can imagine how you would want to clean yourself after 4 hours of hard, grimy, sweaty work!

I explored the ship and came across a single shower under the officer's quarters--and duly had a most beautiful shower.

After my next shift I hastened to the shower and to my surprise I found it had been padlocked! I got a hammer and broke the lock and had my shower.

At the end of my next shift when I went to shower, there was a chain and a bigger, heavier lock—I got a bigger hammer and broke this lock and had my shower.

The biggest shock awaited me at the end of my next shift when I went for a shower—I was confronted by an armed guard with a rifle.

He was a fairly young man and was pointing his rifle at me and saying words like ... "No-no-get back"! I just pushed his rifle in the air and knelt him in the balls and then threw his rifle away and then had my shower.

At the end of my next shift the shower door was well and truly sealed with chains and padlocks, so I got a big sledge hammer and completely demolished the door off its hinges and threw it over the side of the ship, and then had my shower.—Thankfully, I had no more trouble after that.



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Unfortunately, I could only tell a handful of my mates about this shower, otherwise it would have been futile.

MILNE BAY 1942

Our ship arrived under a heavy bombardment. The wharf we were allotted to had a ship that was sunk at the berth.

We made fast as best we could, to the sunken vessel, and unloaded amidst the bombing and the strafing (which split our deck timbers) from enemy aircraft.

I took cover behind the funnel and yelled to my mates to take cover where they thought it was safe!

Thankfully, no one got injured. We unloaded almost all the cargo in the night, under lights.

I witnessed Japanese Landing Barges filled with Jap soldiers, being repulsed by our A.I.F. soldiers—they were magnificent. I did not see where the Jap mother ship was!

We headed back for Townsville, after all the important cargo had been unloaded, at our top speed of 6 knots! We sailed back alone!

When we were about 2 days out from Townsville and in the late afternoon, on a reasonably calm day, a Jap submarine surfaced about 500 metres away on our port side.

Thankfully, they must not have had any torpedoes left but they soon got their 4 inch deck gun to bear on us and in a very short space of time we were both engaged firing on each other.

Our ship also had a 4 inch gun and a 20mm Oerlikon machine gun. They hit the stern of our ship with negligible damage and we hit the sub in the aft end with our return fire, and our machine gun fire was very effective also.

The whole battle would have lasted no more than 10 minutes and after we hit their stern, they submerged rapidly. I would like think we sank it?

The gunners on our ship (all Dutch) did a real good job.

When we arrived back in Townsville, our ship was reloaded with stores, ammunition etc by the “wharfies” who worked around the clock and worked very hard.

On one of our trips our ship also carried over 500 servicemen, being about 300 “hardened” A.I.F. soldiers and about 250 Air Force personnel. They were all mainly “Aussie” but there were a few American Negroes present.

The Air Force men were for’ard and the A.I.F. were aft and they all lived on their own rations.

The heat was stifling and the conditions very cramped and unbearably hot.

We got our steam up and headed out into the harbour to join up with a convoy of 4 Corvettes and 6 Merchant ships. We were the only ship that carried troops!

I must really thank our A.I.F. soldiers because a number of them came down below into the boiler room and saw how hard we had it and they got “stuck in” and helped us stoke the boilers—they were a God-send and we kept our 160psi all the way to Milne Bay.

The voyage across was very rough which meant the men were being violently sick constantly, and this saw their “spoils” running along the scuppers and through our sleeping quarters.

The soldiers, when they realized what was happening, organised to “sluish” buckets of salt water to keep the scuppers clean.

Thankfully, the rough seas meant less submarine activity!

We made it to Milne Bay on schedule, without loss of ships or men, but there was one tragic accident when a young Air Force man slipped and fell down in one of the ‘tween decks and supposedly died instantly – I only heard this.

Once at Milne Bay all the troops went ashore and the other personnel (mainly American Negroes –and real good hard workers) quickly unloaded all our cargoes.

Prior to sailing, 8 of us were “seconded” to a smaller Dutch vessel (I can’t remember its name) but she had a diesel engine and only required 2 men per shift.

There was no stoking and it was a relatively easy assignment keeping our eyes on the gauges and maintaining the oil pressures and taking care of any “leaks”.

When we were about 2 days out from Townsville, in the late afternoon in relatively calm seas, we were torpedoed!

I was on duty in the engine room when the torpedo struck our aft end with tremendous force. My mate and I were thrown heavily to the floor. When the torpedo stuck it completely destroyed our propellers and all power had gone.

Water began pouring in to the engine room from between the cracks in the bulkhead door.

We were not injured, luckily, and quickly hurried out of the engine room and up on to the deck to join all the others.

The crew and us quickly launched the life-boats and discovered they were leaking and useless so we launched the “Carley Floats” and quickly leapt into the water.

There were 3 of us on our “float” and we could just make out the others on their “floats” because it was now just on nightfall.

Our ship was sinking and there was no way we could link up to stay together—we just drifted away from our sinking ship and away from our other mates, as darkness came!

When morning broke we could not see a soul. There was nothing in sight!

It was a fairly calm sea when another small Dutch vessel (a food carrier) spotted us and rescued us. It was on its way back to Australia and dropped us off at Cairns.

We were taken by train back to HMAS Townsville. My two shipmates were kept at HMAS Townsville and I was transferred to HMAS Brisbane.

It was at HMAS Brisbane that I received all NEW gear!

My orders then came for me to be transferred to HMAS Koopa.

(The officer I served with on the “Koopa”, and who arrived on the same day as me, wrote a “poem” about the “Koopa”—I can’t remember his name but he signed the poem Lieutenant E.K.—I have “copied” the poem and included it at the end of my story!).

The HMAS Koopa was commandeered by the navy, about 1943 I think, and just before joining her she was in dock at Kangaroo Island, Brisbane, for some necessary repairs.

The “Koopa” was a good sea-going ship of about 600 tons. It held a lot of memories for me over the two or so years I spent on her.

When the entire crew was assembled we learnt that our job, for the first few months, was to train with the Australian and American soldiers on beach landings—at Bribie Island.

Later, the ship again went into dry dock to have ASDIC type detection gear fitted to repel magnetic mines. This took about two weeks but, unfortunately, the steam generator



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could not supply enough power to work this equipment.

It was then back to dry dock to have part of the after deck lifted so as to install a large diesel generator. The only access to this was through a "man-hole" which was placed outside the Officer's Quarters.

When it came time to "trial" the generator, I was allotted to this task. My job was to ensure that enough electricity was being generated.

What a frightening experience was to confront me!

When I climbed through the "man-hole" into the diesel room it was securely locked behind me.

I started the engine and was unaware that "workers" had left kerosene waste rags on the exhaust pipe. When the engine was started, the "waste" caught fire and fell into the bilge and before I knew it, the engine room was on fire.

I quickly tried to put out the flames with a fire extinguisher but it was useless. I could barely make it back to the "man-hole" to start bashing the "cover" with the extinguisher and yelling for help. Shipmates heard me and unlocked the "man-hole" and pulled me free.

Luckily, I survived. I was burnt on my upper body but, thankfully, not severely. This experience shook me up.

When we returned to Kangaroo Island, the Navy established that our ship would be used as a "Repair Ship" for Fairmiles (they are like a Torpedo Boat).

It took another two weeks for the "Koopa" to be completely fitted out with a work shop and mechanics.

One major task we had was when we "towed" three Fairmiles to Milne Bay (with a refueling stop-over at Gladstone).

The Fairmiles were fitted with two V12 Halscott petrol motors which ran on 98 octane avgas and by towing them it saved thousands of gallons of much needed petrol. The entire trip was incident free.

The Fairmiles were "special" to me because I had made a lot of good friends over the period. One of my good friends, Ralph McKee, was working on one of the engines and it would not start, so one of the men took the lead off the spark plug to see if they were getting a spark, with the tragic result that when the motor was turned over the spark ignited the high octane

gas and it blew up the engine room.

I ran with another engineer to help pull the survivors out off their ship but it was too late for some, including my good mate, Ralph.

The engineer in question received the George Cross for Bravery.

Another of "our" Fairmilers was patrolling the Fly River (I think) and was suddenly confronted with a Japanese Patrol Boat. The Jap boat fired a lethal shot which hit the Fairmile's magazine with devastating consequences.

The "Koopa" remained on the coast of New Guinea. We sailed right up the north coast to all the places that were attacked and bombed, like Buna and Gona and Alexishaven.

I saw many sick and injured Australian and American soldiers "housed" at Alexishaven. They were suffering from the effects of all kinds of fighting in jungle warfare. The place was full of big rats which carried the scrub typhus.

Our ship gave every available fan we had to the facility and our electrician wired them all for them.

Whilst we were moored at Alexishaven we received word that a Fairmile was patrolling about 2 miles north of us when they were struck by a Japanese sub. It apparently blew the Fairmile to pieces but all 16 crew escaped unscathed!

When we left there we went on to Hollandia—this place was full of sunken ships. It was here that we came under enemy air attack and I got wounded from a shrapnel splinter.

I felt a red hot searing pain in my upper leg, just under my left buttock. I could feel the piece of hot metal sticking out but, strangely, not much blood. I got a pair of pliers and pulled out the piece of metal from my leg.

We then continued on to Biak and from here, due to my injury, I was flown back to Madang and then to Milne Bay before finally landing at Sydney (due to bad weather conditions).

I was put up in a hotel room overnight and next morning I was collected by car that took me back to Sydney airport for my final journey to my home town in Adelaide in SA.

I encountered many American helpers on my journey back to Adelaide (via Sydney) and they were very caring and compassionate. Some wanted to know if I got a "Purple Heart"? because of my wound.

I was placed in a Convalescent Home for about a month before being fit to transfer back to Flinders Naval Depot.

The HMAS Koopa was to be my last ship!

It was nearly the end of the war and I was supposed to be posted to HMAS Australia, which was sailing to the UK and the USA, but my old company (now called Colonial Gas Association) wrote to request my release from service as they were desperately short of gas fitters/plumbers!

The navy released me about November 1945 and a week later I returned to my old job.

The company paid me all my wages all the time I was in the service—and so began my working life—again!

("I hope my story has not bored you and I may be a bit hazy with my dates etc because my memory at 88, in trying to recall events of over 60 years ago, is not as accurate as I would wish, but these events are oh so vivid to me, even now. I do have a few regrets—one for not shaking hands with the Captain (Norman Wallace) and the Chief Engineer, Percy Taggart, when I was "paid off" from the HMAS Koopa. My other regret was not to visit the family, after the war, of my good mate, Ralph McKee, who died as a result of the horrific burns he received when the Fairmile he was working on "blew up" in Milne Bay. He is buried in the cemetery in Milne Bay. I used to keep in contact with my other good mate, Percy Smith, who lived in a caravan park in Hervey Bay (Qld) until he died of a heart attack a few years back. I thank you, from Bill Jones.")



Ann and Bill on a cruise in May 2007



The “SS KOOPA”

(The “mystery” ship!)

(The below story, told in rhyme, was penned by a Lieutenant E.K. in the '40's, that's all I know—but my kind thanks to him and Bill Jones's story.)

The “Koopa”, well known as a pleasure ship to the people of Brisbane, has excited considerable interest by her appearance as a HMAS ship on her periodical trips up and down the river. Members of the ship's company have been quietly amused by the comments and opinions of the passengers on the trams that pass her in the course of their journeys to and from the city.

*I'll tell you how it came about; the tram was crowded out
and I was talking to a chap “about it” and about
general sort of resume`, a round up of the news.
Then we started talking ships, their countries and their crews.
Suddenly, he gripped my arm and hushed me to a quiver
and confidentially pointed out a ship tied in the river.*

*“I knoo her, mate; I knoo her when she made her maiden run.
I can tell you where she came from and how many miles she's done.
When I first came to Brisbane, that was several years before
old “Hoch der Kaiser” Wilhelm started up that other war,
that ship, she was a beauty and she is looking fine,
you see the one I mean—there—with funnels two in line.*

*For over 30 years, mate, she's done a special job
Running folks to Redcliffe from Bribie, for a bob;
Up and down the river to every girl and boy,
To every man and woman she brought happiness and joy.
She's been on the job for years and she's done it good and well
Though I won't say they weren't seasick when she got out in a swell.*

*Now the navy's took her over and you ain't supposed to say,
but they've got her on the secret list, out workin' in the bay;
But she's tied up every morning, and the bloomin' mystery grows.
Some say she's on patrol work, some say she's sweeping mines,
some say they took her mast out to improve her flamin' lines.”*

*“Just look at her appearance—she'd fool a lot of boobs;
It's underneath she carries all her five torpedo tubes.
“You see that sort of grill thing, built up around her side?
She's got a 6 inch there, that's what they're tryin' to hide.
Look at all that space they've cleared, along the awning, aft;
I understand they need it for their Fairly Battle Craft.*

*“Of course we always knew she had a pretty turn of speed
and now she's up to 30 knots—I guess that's all she'll need.
She's on a special mission, so don't pass this bit around,
I only heard the other day that the “Mary's” gone aground.
You see those blokes a-workin' with those pipes along the wharf?
Well, they're fixin' up the “Koopa” just to go and drag her orf.”*

*It seemed he'd heard this morning, from a friend who knew the ropes,
The “Koopa” was the ship on which MacArthur pinned his hopes.
I neared my destination so I made to pull the bell
and wondered if my noisy friend was getting out as well.
But there's one thing that I did learn from my municipal trip,
That the navy had attached me to a most unusual ship.*



"The Christ's of Fromelles"

(with kind thanks to the author—Chris Murray—2009)

In the fields of Fromelles in French Flanders we wandered,
and dreamed of the youth which departed from there.
While we wept at the waste of the lives that were 'sundered,
we prayed God to bless them, their spirits repair

And we thought of the Christ, of the sacrifice rendered.
The life's blood that flowed 'til the last drop was gone,
of the boys that were shredded, who never surrendered.
And died that their brothers in freedom be born.

Other Christs with their crosses a-shoulder presented
across no-man's land to Eternity's gate.
Through the fire and the terror which never relented
they sacrificed all without thought of their fate.

And now resurrection of a kind is revealing
the artefact signs to a fast dying place
'neath the meadows of Summer, red poppies concealing
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(Edited from email sent by our Patron, COL Ray Hyslop OAM)

"The system is really quite simple."

"You see, all people in the army are soldiers. All Privates are soldiers but not all soldiers are Privates. Some are Officers who are commissioned but some are Officers who are not commissioned.

Obviously if every Private was called Private it would be confusing, so some Privates are called things like Trooper, Driver, Gunner, Craftsman, Sapper or Signaller.

Not all of the Drivers actually drive because some of them cook, but we don't call them cooks, for that matter, not all drivers are called drivers. Some of them are called Privates or Gunners.

Gunners, as I'm sure you'd understand, are the guys that fire guns, unless of course they are drivers or signallers, in which case we call them gunners instead of drivers or signallers just to make it clearer.

All gunners belong to the Artillery, except that in the Infantry they fire a different sort of gun, for the same reason we call our drivers and signallers Privates as well.

A Lance Corporal is called Corporal; unless he is a Lance Bombardier then we call him Bombardier to distinguish him from a full Bombardier, who is just like a Corporal.

All other ranks are called by their rank for the sake of simplicity, except that Staff Sergeants are called Staff, but they are not on the staff. Some Warrant Officers, who are not Officers, are called Sergeant Major although they are not Sergeants and they are not Majors.

Some Warrant Officers are called Mister, which is the same thing that we call some Officers but they are not Warrant Officers. A Lieutenant is called Mister because they are subalterns, but we always write their rank as Lieutenant or Second lieutenant, and second comes before first.

When we talk about groups of soldiers there obviously has to be a clear distinction. We call them Officers and Soldiers although we know that officers are soldiers too. Sometimes we talk about officers and other ranks which is the same as calling them soldiers.

I guess it easiest when we talk about rank and file, which is all the troops on parade except the Officers and some of the NCO's—and a few of the Privates—and the term is used whether everyone is on parade or not.

A large unit is called a battalion, unless it is a regiment but sometimes a regiment is much bigger than a battalion and then it has nothing to do with the other sort of regiment.

Sub units are called companies unless they are squadrons or troops—or batteries for that matter. That is not radio batteries and don't confuse this type of troop with the type who are soldiers but not Officers.

Mostly, the Army is divided into Corps as well as units, not the sort of Corps which is a couple of Divisions, but the sort which tells you straight away what trade each man performs, whether he is a tradesman or not.

The Infantry Corps has all the Infantrymen for example, and the Artillery Corps has all the gunners.

Both these Corps also have signallers and drivers except those who are in the Signals or Transport Corps. Both these Corps provides a special service and that's why the Transport Corps provides cooks.

In fact, the Signals Corps is not a Service at all it is an Arm. Arms do all the fighting, although Signals don't have to fight too much, rather like the Engineers who are also an Arm but they don't fight too much either. So, you see, it's really quite simple."



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The Government Stimulus Package!
(Kindly sent by email from member, Nelson Fiorentino)

As we all know, the Government gave out a "Stimulus Payments" to various groups when the economic downturn hit in 2008.

The below groups from the **Medical Profession** had this to say;

- The **Allergists** voted to scratch it.
- The **Dermatologists** advised not to make any rash moves.
- The **Gastroenterologists** had a sort of gut feeling about it.
- The **Neurologists** thought the Government had a lot of nerve.
- The **Obstetricians** felt the Government was labouring under a misconception.
- The **Ophthalmologists** considered it a shortsighted policy.
- The **Pathologists** yelled..."Over my dead body!"
- The **Paediatricians** said..."Oh, grow up!"
- The **Psychiatrists** thought the whole idea was madness.
- The **Radiologists** could see right through it.
- The **Surgeons** decided to wash their hands of the whole thing.
- The **Plastic Surgeons** said..."This puts a whole new face on the matter."
- The **Podiatrists** thought it was a good step forward.
- The **Urologists** thought that the scheme wouldn't hold water.
- The **Anaesthesiologists** thought the whole idea was a gas.
- The **Cardiologists** didn't have the heart to say no.
- The **Internists** thought it was a bitter pill to swallow.

In the end the **Proctologists** left the final decision to all the **a...holes in Canberra.**



ACTIVITY SHEET (for March 2010)
(Please indicate your choice/s with an X or Tick)

- ☐ Please find enclosed my Subs for 2010 (\$15) (cover from January to December) or LIFE MEMBERSHIP (\$100) or Donation *(See my details below)*.
- ☐ Re: “Fetch Starlight” (bi-annual) magazine—please deliver a free copy to my home address.
- ☐ Please send me ____ RAAMC Centenary “Coin and Token” set/s @ \$25 each.
- ☐ Please send me ____ RAAMC Centenary (Stamped) Envelopes (1903-2003) @ \$2 each. (48 left—with 50c Stamp embossed)
- ☐ Please send me a 5 Field Ambulance RAAMC KEY RING (\$20). *(with my membership number on it, if possible.)*
- ☐ Please order me a NAME BADGE (\$20)
The name on the badge to read:- _____
- ☐ Please order me a (XL/Large/Medium/Small) BERET (\$30), *BERET BADGE (\$8), *LAPEL BADGE (\$7), *CORPS TIE *(Includes postage)* (\$40)---please indicate size of Beret & whether Badges/Ties are to be RAAMC or RACT/RAEME.
- ☐ Please order me a copy of Sir Keith Jones’s book.
“One Man’s Story” an autobiography (\$25)
- ☐ Please loan “Military of the Hunter—1855-2005”. I will return it when read.
- ☐ Please ORDER me a copy of the above @ \$45 (Includes postage).

(Please make any Cheques/Money Orders etc payable to:- “5th Field Ambulance Association” and post to either:- Alan Curry, 8 Reliance Bvde., TANILBA BAY NSW 2319 OR Treasurer, Brian Tams, 4/24-26 Barrenjoey Rd., ETTALONG BEACH, NSW 2257—All acknowledgements in next issue. EFT details are: BSB: 637000, ACCOUNT NUMBER: 717253825, A/C Name: 5th Field Ambulance Association, BANK: Greater Building Society. (Please Identify your name)

COMMENTS/ORDERS ETC: FROM:

CONTACT No: _____ **MONEY ENCLOSED \$** _____

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

“ SEMPER PARATUS “

5th FIELD AMBULANCE RAAMC ASSOCIATION

Patron: COL Ray Hyslop OAM RFD

President: LTCOL. Derek Cannon RFD

WEB SITE: www.5fdamb.com

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Preferred Title: Mr./ Mrs./ M/s. Dr. Etc.		Month of Birth:
<u>FAMILY NAME:</u>		(Wife/Partner Christian Name)
<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>OTHER NAME/S</u>	
<u>Military/Civilian Awards (if any)</u> _____		
<u>Service/PMkeys Number (if applicable)</u> _____		
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<u>SUBURB/TOWN/CITY etc</u> _____		
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<u>Contact Details:</u> <u>Telephone</u> (H) _____ (W) _____		
<u>FAX:</u> _____ <u>EMAIL:</u> _____		
<u>MOBILE:</u> _____		

I hereby apply to join 5th Field Ambulance RAAMC Association as (Please mark “X” in the appropriate box below)

- ☐ A FULL MEMBER (served/serving in the A.D.F. or Allied Forces)
- ☐ AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER (never served in the A.D.F. --Australian Defence Forces)

Annual Subscription (\$15) is due on the 1st January each year. LIFE MEMBERSHIP is \$100. (Reminders will be included in each “ACTIVITY SHEET”)

Cheques/Money Orders should be made out to “5th FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION” and forwarded to either — Alan Curry (Hon Sect) 8 Reliance Bvde, TANILBA BAY. N.S.W 2319 OR Brian Tams (Hon Treasurer), 4/24-26 Barrenjoey Rd, ETTALONG BEACH. NSW 2257. EFT Details: BSB: 637000, A/C Number: 717253825, A/C Name: 5th Field Ambulance Association, Bank: Greater Building Society. (Please identify yourself). All acknowledgements will be in next Newsletter.

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