



Sapper Summit



22 Engineer Regiment on ANZAC DAY

From the Editor

At their AGM in April, the RAE (Vic) Historical and Heritage Association resolved to change their name to:

"The Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria Incorporated."

On 4 June, the Secretary received formal certification of the new name from Consumer Affairs, Victoria.

We now have an operating RAE Association for Victoria!

See page 2 for further news.

Inside this issue

From the Editor	1
Sapper Summit Support.....	2
H & H Assn AGM.....	2
Rob Youl's Column	4
Recent Events	
⇒ Sit Clive Steele Lecture	6
⇒ Good Friday Appeal	7
Coming Events	7
From the Regiment	
⇒ 22 ER Update.....	8

Special points of interest

- Anzac Day March 12
- Special events adverts 13
- Association Reports 14
- Vale 15

Special Note:

Graeme Lambert was to take over as Editor from this edition.

However, he was not available, so I have not quite retired yet!

Austin Byrne

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SAPPER SUMMIT

Sapper Summit is produced four times a year
by the RAE Association (Vic) Inc.
(Reg No. A0046126U.)

The President is Lt Col Colin Bowater (Rtd)
The Secretary is WO1 Jim Davis (Rtd)
The Editor is Maj Graeme Lambert (Rtd)

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SAPPER SUMMIT SUPPORT

Can you help with news items, suggestions, and letters
to the editor, etc. Send them to:

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Our target dates for articles for the remaining 2014
issues are:

August issue by 1 August
November issue by 17 October

Note that articles or opinions of authors or contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Association. The format and clarity of the articles is the responsibility of the contributor.

ISSUING OF RECEIPTS FOR SAPPER SUMMIT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Receipts will not be issued unless requested.
Please contact the Treasurer if you require one.

NEWS FROM THE HISTORICAL AND HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

The Association held its AGM on 8 April.

The new Committee is:

<i>President:</i>	<i>Colin Bowater</i>
<i>Vice-President:</i>	<i>Don Hughes</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Jim Davis</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Maureen Rundell</i>
<i>Members:</i>	<i>Graeme Lambert (Editor)</i>
	<i>Tony Jackson (Memorabilia)</i>
	<i>Margaret Handte (Excursions)</i>
	<i>Cliff Parfitt (Unit Histories)</i>
	<i>Eric Howatt</i>

This expanded committee provides resources for the challenges ahead.

As indicated in the last issue, the other major item was the motion to move to a Victorian RAE Association.

Because we are an Incorporated association the wording was somewhat formal. Several speakers spoke to the motion, including the Colonel Commandant. The motion was unanimously approved that the new name is:

"The Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria Incorporated."

The abbreviated or short title is:

The RAE Association (Vic) Inc.

Now that this change is approved by Consumer Affairs, we will seek membership from the Sapper family. Because the year is half over, there will be no joining fee this year. Instead, the current charges for Sapper Summit will continue. Next year, there will be an annual membership subscription which will include the journal issues.

Expect a follow-up in the next few weeks.

*... Jim Davis,
Secretary*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT At The H & H ASSN AGM

These are dot point summaries of Colin Bowater's report. There is not room to include the full report.

.. Ed

- ◆ This was my first year as President. It has been challenging and exciting.
- ◆ Special thanks to:
 - Secretary, Mr Jim Davis,
 - Treasurer, Norm Dodgson,
 - Sapper Summit contributor, Rob Youl,
 - Vice-President, Bruce Campbell,
 - The Committee for its effort.
- ◆ Norn Dodgson retired as Treasurer in December and Maureen Rundell became Treasurer. Don Hughes was invited to fill the Committee vacancy.
- ◆ There were four very good issues of Sapper Summit and several short-notice news sheets.
- ◆ The plaque at AAMI Stadium was finally unveiled on 28 March this year. This was a joint effort with the RAA Association.
- ◆ A proposal for a plaque at Site 17, Seymour is moving again.
- ◆ We organised an excursion to Puckapunyal in October, to see projects that 22 Const Regt were working on, including a grenade range gabion basket blast wall, a rebuilt stop butt on the Classification Range and a Bailey footbridge.
- ◆ The Sir Clive Steel Lecture was held at Oakleigh Barracks in May last year, and covered PLAN BEER-SHEBA -- the defence strategy for the future, including the consequences of no longer having significant resources diverted to the Afghanistan conflict. Will the anticipated period of no conflict be "A peace dividend or a peace liability?"
- ◆ Our Association again provided liaison between the RAE and the **Reserve Forces Day March** Committee regarding arrangements and dissemination of news through Sapper Summit. We had a good turnout of Sappers for the March, and many attended the follow up luncheon reunion at the Emerald Hotel, South Melbourne afterwards. Many thanks to Margaret Handte for her work.
- ◆ The Association's financial situation remains excellent, with cash in hand at the end of 2013 being \$5,660.76 which is adequate for our needs for 2014.
- ◆ In December the aims for the year were identified as:
 - A proposal to change the Association's name to The Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria Incorporated.
 - A membership drive to increase the members of the Association.
 - To develop a database to improve our membership details.
 - To explore the development of a website for the Association.
 - The organization and running of the BACK TO THE REGIMENT function as part of the 22 ER merger celebrations.
 - Get moving on Unit Histories.
 - Sorting of memorabilia.
- ◆ Several of these matters have already happened or have advanced:
 - The Back to the Regiment reunion on 14 March 2014 was a very successful night with over 130 people in attendance and especially great to see so many of retired sappers. Silver sappers were presented to Norm Dodgson, Austin Byrne and Bruce Campbell by the Colonel Commandant.
 - The move to an RAE Association has been sounded out with other Reunion Groups and Associations and will be formally approved today.
 - At a meeting on 18 Feb, sub-committees were formed to research material for both Ringwood and Oakleigh Unit Histories. Members are Don Hughes, Eric Howatt, Graeme Lambert, Austin Byrne, Margaret Handte, Murray Wilson, Gary Campbell, Jim Davis and Colin Bowater. Maj Cliff Parfitt will be the Project Manager.
 - Mike Meany has nearly completed the History of 38 Fd Sqn. It should be ready towards the end of the year.
 - CO 22 ER has provided a room at Oakleigh for our use; this approval is to be on a year to year basis with the Association to apply each year for the continuation of this privilege. We have also been allocated the cleaners' room next door which has two filing cabinets. Room allocation will be of great assistance and give us some certainty with the safe storage of memorabilia. A working bee is needed to move the gear.

... from Colin Bowater's report.

Rob Youl's Column

Malaysia

Malaya, Malaysia—I devote this second piece to the inter-war years and WWII.

The 1920s and 1930s were good times for British Malaya: the various peninsular states (with their often autocratic indigenous royal families) and island trading hub, Singapore, with North Borneo (now Sabah), Sarawak and Brunei all vigorous British protectorates. Tin (mostly alluvial and dredged) and rubber production kept the economy buoyant. The USA took half of these exports.

The British planters, miners, managers, civil servants, engineers, business-people and military men lived well, especially in cities, towns and coastal regions: good food, servants, clubs, cars, sport and personal security, with the sense that they contributed greatly to their loyal adopted lands, but belonged to the ultimate ruling race via King and Country. However, many British lived at remote plantations and mines; their knowledge of the jungle, mountains and waterways would prove valuable in due course, especially in the Malay States Volunteer Rifles and other militia units like the Johore Volunteer Engineers, and as partisans.

A volume called 'General Orders' governed administration, which seems to have been less than clear. Corruption was a problem, including in the police service, mines, lands and civil engineering departments. Opposition was sparse, although the authorities took seriously the Malayan Communist Party, dealt with summarily in 1931-32 by imprisonment and extradition.

Whilst democracy was therefore light on, equal opportunity was slowly emerging, thanks to an admirable absence of extreme prejudice, to better and more open education, occasional local appointments to middle and upper levels of the civil service and to the growth of the Chinese and Malay middle classes. It seems to me that the police, soldiers, farmers and fishermen were mostly Malay, and the Chinese dominated commerce—large and small—and the manufacturing work force. Both races supplied clerks and junior administrators, Sikhs were often conspicuously successful, and Chinese and Tamils laboured for all. Bustling Singapore, the regional port then as now, by the 1930s had 400 000 Chinese residents.

Good times, yes, but the 1930s Depression brought problems, and tension mounted regionally with Japan's Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany in 1936, and its various invasions and repressions of China. The Singapore Chinese quickly organised support for their devastated mainland cousins, and dispatched material relief. Nevertheless, Britain, while troubled, perhaps took this

threat lightly for a time, because Japan had been our ally during WWI. The European powers with Asian colonies failed to build on that wartime relationship (racism? a sense of cultural superiority?) and even to negotiate guarantees with the obviously ambitious Japanese government. Moreover, Japan continued to buy Malayan iron and manganese ores, bauxite and wolfram, all vital war materiel.

There was also a stratum of Japanese resident in Malaya, often concentrated around major junctions and industrial zones. Many were businessmen, not just with Nissan and Mitsubishi, but dentists, photographers, barbers and café-owners, who apparently passed useful intelligence back home in the 1930s, as did Japanese fishermen, merchant mariners and diplomats. Perhaps Japanese prostitutes, who were also numerous, did the same. Secret political bodies bringing together Malays and Japanese were not unknown in the year or so before 1941, when the Japanese invaded, and a Japanese-owned newspaper did its bit influencing opinion.

But this is to leap ahead. The Singapore strategy for naval defence in the Far East prevailed from 1919-41. It envisaged a fleet working from a well equipped and defended base with massive oil storages (Singapore was the best and most central location) to deter Japanese aggression by relieving or recapturing Hong Kong, or blockading Japan—to invade would be impractical, but blockade would bring huge economic pressure on that maritime nation. Sembawang, formerly a rubber plantation facing the mainland across the Straits of Johore, was chosen in 1928 for the naval base. Construction ended in 1938. Australia, for one, was often critical of this concept, but as the thirties progressed, opposition to disarmament declined in most circles for obvious reasons. Off on a tangent, but the declaration of war in 1939 greatly, but as it turned out, briefly, stimulated the Malayan economy.

Interestingly, some of the old naval links between the RN and Japan remained for a time: in 1921, seeking profitable business, a semi-official British mission under Colonel the Master of Sempill (a Scots aristocrat ultimately deemed a spy during WWII) shared in great detail the RN's knowledge of carrier operations, which the Japanese took up rapidly and cleverly. Britain favoured multi-purpose aircraft, whilst the Japanese rightly homed in on, and built, high-speed fighters and light bombers suitable for oceanic operations—which proved their worth when their Pacific campaigns began.

Chronicling movement of Australian troops to Malaya, essentially 8 Division, 2 AIF under Major General Gordon Bennett, once war had broken out in Europe, is complicated. One brigade (24) had been rapidly dispatched to the Middle East, becoming part of 9 Division. However we had diggers in Singapore—22 Brigade—18, 19 and 20 Battalions—from 2 February 1941;

27 Brigade—26, 29 and 30 Battalions—joined it later, in August, making it a two-brigade division. But there were major reinforcements—even in mid January, 2000 men arrived, including 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion. (The remaining major element of 8 Division, 23 Brigade, supplied the ill-fated Lark [1400 Australian troops], Sparrow [1400] and Gull Forces [1100] for Rabaul, Timor and Ambon; brigade headquarters remained in Darwin, which must have been depressing.) Broadly the British land force, commanded from Singapore by General Arthur Percival, comprised over four divisions, including our Eighth.

Japan launched its war in the Pacific in the northeast Malayan state of Kelantan with beach landings just after midnight on 8 December 1941, although there had been air raids on Singapore and elsewhere beforehand. H-Hour for Kelantan was just one hour before the Pearl Harbour assault over 10 000 kilometres away in Hawaii (on 7 December because of time zones). The next day the Japanese captured three airports, including Butterworth on the west coast opposite Penang. On 10 December, off the Malayan east coast, Japanese aircraft, presumably carrier-based as many were torpedo-bombers, sank HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse; the RN expected RAF air cover, which the latter could not provide, a terrible lesson for the strategists. A second landing soon followed a few days later, at Miri in Sarawak, with an attack on Balikpapan in the Dutch East Indies on 23 January 1942.

Thailand's brief resolve crumbled, allowing the Japanese to consolidate on the Malayan border. Their land forces divided, one to each coastline, both groups having efficient artillery, light armour and close air support (indeed air superiority). And experience (from the Chinese campaigns), and far better tactics! They concentrated their forces and made further landings south along the coast as necessary. They did not confine themselves to roads but outflanked the defenders by moving across country—jungle was not an obstacle.

The Japanese pressed rapidly southwards and Penang island fell on 16 December. Then followed a series of desperate withdrawals by British forces, including Indian battalions, with Kuala Lumpur abandoned on 13 January. Sappers demolished some 100 bridges, with little effect on the enemy's mobility. By now at least three battalions of 8 Division were in the field in peninsular Malaya, with the rest along Johore Straits on Singapore. On 14 January, B Company from 2/30 Battalion (CO Lieutenant Colonel 'Black Jack' Galleghan) ambushed a force from the Imperial Guards Division at Gemenchah Bridge, some 280 kilometres north of Singapore, killing some 700 enemy, with eight Australians dead and 80 wounded. Four days later saw heavy fighting at Parit Sulong, around 80 kilometres south at Parit, after which Japanese soldiers massacred around 160 wounded troops from 2/19 and 2/29 Battalions. One

gets the feeling the brigades were being broken up to plaster wounds, rather than fighting in concert. However, ambushes sometimes put Japanese tanks out of action, and there were numerous brave deeds.

By 31 January the last Allied formations had crossed to Singapore, with the sappers breaching the causeway. Regular uncontested air strikes compounded the grave situation. General Percival had much earlier tasked Bennett and his men with the defence of some twenty kilometres of coastline in the island's north and west, with 44 Indian Brigade under command. The Japanese could observe these sectors readily from their headquarters in the Sultan of Johore's palace (which the British were reluctant to bomb), and shelled them at will from 3 February. On 8 February, the first attempts were made to cross the strait in force (but for some time soldiers in civilian clothes had been infiltrating); gradually a Japanese bridgehead lodged and expanded, with the defenders pushed back in severe disarray.

Fighting continued until 1715 hours on 15 February—several books could be written on the havoc, drama, bloodshed, lack of communications, wrong assumptions, differing degrees of discipline, cruelty, myriad service and citizen casualties and lack of hope and leadership, including in Australian ranks. Loyalties stretched to breaking-point. General Bennett controversially handed over command to his senior gunner and sailed off to Sumatra. He and a small party arrived in Melbourne on 2 March, Bennett claiming valuable insights into fighting the Japanese. In Malaya and Singapore, over 100 000 of his comrades, led by Percival, became PoWs, with some 18 000 civilian internees. Up to 100 000 Chinese were murdered during the next months, as were Malay officers and soldiers, 100 in one notorious action. Of the 40 000 Indian troops, 30 000 dissatisfied soldiers formed into a pro-independence Indian National Army that fought the Allies in Burma and north west India, and others became Changi guards.

The Japanese threat had however instigated a resistance movement, centred from mid 1941 on 101 Special Training School, Singapore. (The governor would not support it, labelling it 'defeatist'!) On the peninsula, stragglers, remote planters, miners, foresters, game wardens and Chinese volunteers, some 101 STS graduates, organised stores and weapons dumps and set up radios. A leader was Freddie Spencer-Chapman DSO, who had taught Prince Phillip at Gordonstoun and would spend almost the rest of the war in the jungle with Aborigines and Chinese guerillas—some supported the Kuomintang, but the majority were Communists in the Malayan Peoples Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA). His other comrades were physical challenge, tension, malnutrition, disease, extreme discomfort and the threat of betrayal and torture, but he survived. Formed around June 1942 in Perak, 5 Independent Anti-Japanese Regiment included a smart Chinese lad, Chin Peng.

The overwhelming numbers of Japanese meant guerilla actions were largely convoy and railway ambushes and demolitions, but these were sustained throughout the rest of the war. A Colombo-based Far East Special Operations Executive ran from August 1942, stepping up penetration, patrols and resupply with the advent of the Liberator bomber and increased submarine availability. The aim: to build a 3 000-strong force that could prepare for Britain's reoccupation of Malaya. This turned out to be a complicated and anarchic process, with reprisals, delays, short fuses when dealing with the still-armed Japanese (130 000 of them versus 7-8,000 MPAJA and associates), confusion over pre- and post-war property rights, painful family reunions, war-crime investigations and the appearance of unsympathetic, insensitive post-war administrators said to have been swept up by the new mood of anti-colonialism in Britain.

The battle-honed MPAJA, told to disband, hand over its weapons in December 1945, and accept \$300 Malay per man in wages, turned its heels and went back into the jungle.

— Based on Margaret Shennan's *Out in the Middy Sun: The British in Malaya 1880-1960*; *The Jungle is Neutral* by F Spencer-Chapman; and good old Wikipedia and Australian military history sources.

... Rob Youl

* * *

Recent Events:

SIR CLIVE STEELE LECTURE 2014

The 2014 Sir Clive Steele Lecture was held on 29th April 14 at Oakleigh Barracks and was hosted by the Commanding Officer of the 22nd Engineer Regiment – LTCOL Glen Pilbeam.

Whilst most of the audience attending were in uniform, and in some cases I suspect with a degree of reluctance, there was also a sprinkling of "old and bolds" in the room. The audience was entertained by three very excellent presenters and I am sure that everyone attending would have left the evening the better for the experience and the knowledge that was provided.

The lecture is an important event on the Engineer calendar as it gives the CO the opportunity of bringing together a selection of presenters to inform serving and retired members on developments and updates within the Corps. This year's lecture was even more significant in that it was the inaugural one for the new Regiment.

This year's presenters were:

Jim Marett – President of the Tunnel Rats Association who spoke about his time as a National Serviceman in Vietnam and his experiences as a Tunnel Rat. Jim's wonderful presentation was well received and enabled the audience to see how the soldiers operated and lived in a jungle environment during the 1960 – 1970's. There were certainly light hearted moments mixed in with the serious business of survival in a war zone.

MAJ Paul Mason – presented an update on new equipment procurement for the Corps and the obvious hurdles that face the RAE in maintaining its capability to readily support the ADF in the modern era.

WO2 Ben Stevens – gave an excellent presentation on his recent deployment to Afghanistan as a Troop Sergeant, his experiences whilst on patrol, living within a hostile environment, the constant daily dangers experienced by his soldiers, resupply problems and difficult conditions that the soldiers worked under.

In some cases it is quite amazing to see the similarities of the tasks faced by the soldiers serving in Vietnam and Afghanistan but on the other hand the vast differences between the soldier of Vietnam and of today. For instance in Vietnam the soldiers often went without shirts etc. but in Afghanistan they are heavily weighed down with body armour and the like.

A very clear message though in both presentations is that no matter what the conflict the role of the Engineers is paramount in supporting the all-corps effort to ensure that the Army is able to achieve its objectives.

Neither Ben nor Jim set out to show this parallel but it was so evident – in both conflicts it was the Corporals and Sappers who ran the teams, providing advice and getting the tasks done.

We were fortunate to have the BDE COMD (BRIG Michael Annett) "drop in" and he viewed part of the presentation. BRIG Annett addressed the assembly and gave a brief update on happenings within the Brigade.

Following completion of the presentations supper was served in the Combined Mess.

... Jim Davis

The Good Friday Appeal.

This year's Good Friday Appeal for the Royal Children's Hospital raised an amazing amount of \$16,846,396.09. But within that amount, \$19,011.35 was raised by my group -- 4th Combat Engineer Regiment and Friends (next year 22ER & Friends).

For the last 26 years we have been shaking tins at the front of the Children's Hospital. We have raised to date \$332,781.00 and have made a difference to the lives of many sick children.

Over those years, our group has consisted of members from our RAE family; all ranks from the CO down to the rank of Pte, and their family and friends.

The last 26 years has not only been about shaking tins; we have also assisted in the old Children's hospital Cancer Ward 6 East -- moving the whole ward patient's, equipment, beds and everything relocating it on the 9th floor -- saving them thousands of dollars.

At Christmas time, we would decorate the Cancer Ward and give out presents to the kids. Also across the road at Ronald McDonald House, we would organise theme functions (Xmas in July etc) or just go in and cook meals for whoever was staying at the house at the time -- which back then was up to 18 families, and make them feel special at a time when their children were very sick.

Some people have asked me how did this all start? Well, my son Adam was a patient at 6 East. Back in 1987 he was diagnosed with a rare tumour and was part of the very first Good Friday Appeal that we organized in April 1989. He died on 14 June that year.

I would like to thank all the CO's at Ringwood, the soldiers and friends of our RAE family, the bus company Invicta / Ventura (who bus us in and out of the city every year) and to you who have supported me over the last 26 years. I look forward to your support next year and the years to come.

THANK YOU.

... Jock Howatt

RAE CORPS SHOP

If you wish to get items from the Corps Shop, contact:

WO1 Aaron Watts at SME:

email : aaron.watts@defence.gov.au

mobile: 0439 982 560

Coming Events:

RESERVE FORCES DAY MARCH

Sunday 6 July 2014

The 2014 Melbourne Reserve Forces Day Parade will be held at the Melbourne Shrine on Sunday, 6 July.

The theme this year reflects on "Then" and "Now"

— "Then" being 1914.

— "Now" being our recent involvements —
Iraq, Timor, Afghanistan.

There will be Static displays, plus the Army Band and the Light Horse.

Only current and ex-Reserve members can march. Families are encouraged to come and support the event.

Assembly:

◆ The assembly point is at Government House Drive.

◆ Form-up is 1000 hrs. It is recommended that you get there 15 minutes earlier, to give time to park and find us.

Dress:

◆ The Sappers have been trying to standardise the dress with beret, black reefer jacket, light coloured shirt and grey slacks, or alternatively a suit. We are being urged to avoid very casual clothes such as hoodies and jeans.

Decorations:

◆ Only your own officially issued decorations and medals can be worn.

On Completion:

RAE personnel are invited to assemble at the Emerald Hotel, 415 Clarendon Street (corner Clarendon and Raglan Streets), South Melbourne (Melway Ref: 2K, E4) for our normal re-union lunch.

Any queries, contact Margaret Handte
on 0400 247 678,
or email: max22@tpg.com.au

The RAE Corps Officers Golf Day 2014

at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

Keep **Friday 17 October** free.

RV no later than 0930 hrs

Tee off is 1000hrs

We will play the West Course.

Green fees: \$80.00

The handicapper requires accurate handicap information before the day.

To book, please contact:

Capt Bill McAuley on (03) 5489 3218 or
Mobile 0404 197 100.

of Signals Museum at Simpson Barracks for use as a vehicle display.

-- Upgrade to the School of Signals training facility "Pits, Pipes and Poles".

-- Construction of a defensive position for the School of Signals, including weapon pits, command posts, wire. This task is provisionally planned to be delivered as part of the IET Phase 1 course.

-- Extension to the existing deck at Simpson's Barracks Officers Mess.

... LT Hagqvist,
203 Wks

* * *

Transit Security Element (Rotation 72)

Operation Resolute --

An RAE, Army Reserve Led

Tri-service Company Group.

From the Regiment:

22 ER REPORT

A diverse range of construction activities are planned for delivery by 22 Engineer Regiment over the next 12 months.

The main effort for 22 Engineer Regiment's construction works will be undertaken in October 2014 through EX PLATYPUS SUSTAINS. The works include the construction of a network of roads and a permanent defensive position for the Army Logistics Training Centre (ALTC) at Latchford Barracks Bandiana.

The training will consist of vertical and horizontal construction tasks including an unsealed access road and a permanent defensive position within the Tactical Training Area. The horizontal construction works will provide 470m of all weather access tracks including geotextile trapezoidal drains to enhance ALTC's internal training area road network. The vertical construction works will provide prefabricated weapon pits, sand bag filling bay and permanent command post for use at ALTC's tactical training facility.

203 Wks has also reconnoitred several more minor projects to assess their suitability as future works for 2015. These potential future works comprise of:

- Upgrade for Dutson Range's Demolitions Range, Classification Range and Boat Ramp.
- Construction of a 20m x 15m building for the School

With a change in operational tempo and 2DIV taking a bigger role in Domestic, Non-warlike and Peacetime Operations, the Army Contingent Transit Security Element (Rotation 72) [TSE-72] Operation RESOLUTE, was tasked to be populated by personnel from the 4th Brigade. TSE provide an additional Security Capability to OP RESOLUTE. OP RESOLUTE is the name allocated to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) contribution to civil maritime security operations as part of Border Protection Command. The ADF component is known as the Joint Task Force (JTF) 639 controlled by the Headquarters JTF639, lodged in Headquarters Northern Command in Darwin.

Commander 4th Brigade gave the honour of preparing and coordinating this element to the newly formed 22nd Engineer Regiment: a combination of the 4th Combat Engineer Regiment and 22nd Construction Regiment which was created in 2014.

Nominations for the 88 positions were opened to the entire brigade and all Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (SNCOs) and above had to provide a Resume and Biography for Brigade to select the team. Of the 88 personnel, 36 (approx 41%) were identified and selected from the 22 Engineer Regiment, including: the OC, 2IC, and CSM; the Key Command appointments were all RAE, Army Reserve. The 88 person team was divided into a Company Headquarters (CHQ, including Commander's Reserve), an Engineer Heavy Platoon, an Infantry Heavy Platoon, and a Cavalry Heavy Platoon (with 1 section of Engineers). The selected personnel (83 GRES / 5 ARA) were drawn from 22nd Engineer Regiment, 5th/6th Royal Victoria Regiment, 8th/7th Royal Victoria Regiment, 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse,

Headquarters 4th Brigade, Melbourne University Regiment, 17th Combat Service Support (CSS) Brigade and 8th CSS Battalion (8BDE).

On 19th January 2014, Army Contingent TSE-72 deployed to Darwin to commence an intensive 7-week training program. On the 20th January 2014, Army Contingent TSE-72 married up with the Navy and Air Force members assigned to TSE-72 and it was identified that the CHQ was to Command, Manage and Lead the first ever Reserve led Tri-service Company Group.

The intensive 7-week training program was conducted at all the Defence bases within the local Darwin area: HMAS Coonawarra, Larakeyah Barracks, Robertson Barracks, RAAF Base Darwin and Defence Establishment Berrimah – where the majority of the Tri-service Company lived during the training. Week one consisted of welcome briefs, briefs on operational admin and logistics, introduction to the Navy and the fleet assigned to OP Resolute. Also during this week, the company conducted mandatory training, kit issues and the Royal Australia Navy (RAN) Swim Test in the Larakeyah Barracks pool. A highlight during this week was the lunches consumed at the RAAF Base Darwin. The majority of Engineers requested to complete the rest of the training at RAAF Darwin, and some even mentioned changing over to the RAAF (as Field Engineers of course).

The TSE-72 Company conducted a relatively intense PT program with the Navy PTI twice a day, continuously for two weeks, which formed part of the acclimatisation process as well as preparing the team for the rest of the training as the physicality increased.

After week one, the Tri-service Company Group was split into four training teams to complete the prerequisite courses prior to Force Assignment to the JTF639. Each platoon was a training team with additional Navy and Air Force members added to even up the teams. The 4th Training Team was predominately Navy with CHQ and the senior Navy and Air Force members attached. CHQ completed all the training with the teams to ensure full flexibility and provide leadership from the front - building a stronger better team that possessed its own “Esprit de Corps”.

Week 2 for the TSE-72 training phase for two of the Training Teams (Including the Engineer Heavy Platoon) was the 9mm course conducted over four days by Navy instructors, with Army augmentation. The Navy have a very ‘different’ way of conducting weapons lessons. For the Engineers and the rest of the teams it was all part of learning about the other services. The conclusion of the 9mm course was the Live Fire. Utilising an outdoor range in the middle of the wet season in Darwin on a range without shelter from the weather (including the waiting areas) presented its challenges.

The teams conducted LF1 to 6 in the rain and the wind and strict safety precautions for a live fire range were adhered to, despite the inclement environmental factors. Shooting from the various positions became interesting in particular, kneeling positions in knee-deep puddles and the rain flicking up as it hit the ground (think the rain that came up from the ground in the movie Forrest Gump). On the plus side, the stickers used to cover the holes on the targets were not very adhesive in the rain – so we had some very accurate shots: 40 out of 40 or better.

The other two training teams, including CHQ, conducted components of the Boarding Operations Common Course which was designed to teach members a number of maritime skills. Due to availability of Instructors; TSE-72 were taught basic skills to assist once force assigned to the JTF639 including being shown how the life vests worked, how to assemble the Modular Combined Body Armour System (MCBAS) and how boarding ladders operate.

Week 3 for the Engineer Platoon was Military Self Defence (MSD) training, conducted at Robertson Barracks. The other team that completed the 9mm training the previous week conducted MSD at Defence Establishment Berrimah. MSD is aimed at providing participants with the skills to counter aggression and protect oneself whilst unarmed. It was a physically and mentally demanding course that was brutal on the members. The other two training teams who completed the Boarding Operations Common Course the previous week completed the 9mm course during this time facing the same issues including the rain coming up from the ground and some very accurate shooting.

Week 4 for the two teams who conducted MSD (including the Engineer Platoon) was the Boarding Operations Common Course. The same courses, with the same outcomes, as the two teams who completed the course in week 2. The teams who conducted the 9mm the previous week, conducted the MSD course at both Defence Establishment Berrimah and Robertson Barracks.

Week 5 saw the four training teams come back together (a number of the members with some aches and pains) to conduct the Population Protection and Control (PPC) course, which enhanced a number of skills TSE-72 had obtained so far. Additionally it introduced TSE-72 to equipment that they would be utilising as part of their TSE duties once force assigned. The training was conducted in section and platoon size elements and culminated in OC (an RAE 22 Engineer Regiment member) conducting a Company level drill manoeuvring the Tri-service Company Group to achieve the allocated task.

Week 6 was Navy-led Mission Rehearsal Exercise Week known as the Collective Training Period (CTP). The CTP was conducted by the Sea Training Group Minor War Vessels and assessed the capability of the TSE to incorporate the previous weeks of training into realistic scenarios as faced by previous TSE rotations and Naval boarding teams. The CTP assessed boarding parties, capability to control potential illegal immigrants (PIIs), compartment clearance, Armidale Class Patrol Boat (ACPB) hands to boarding stations and orientation. The culminating activity for this training phase was conducting scenario training on MV Discovery III, the Navy's training vessel for boarding utilising Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat (RHIB) insertions. For these scenarios, TSE members were required to insert onto a Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel (SIEV), played by Discovery III, via RHIBs and then to deal with the situation that the team were faced with.

On the Friday of week 6, TSE was privileged to receive a visit from two "VVIPs" – the Prime Minister of Australia: The Hon. Tony ABBOTT, MP and Commander Border Protection Command (COMBPC): RADM Michael NOONAN, AM, RAN. The PM and COMBPC completed a TSE-72 company PT session with the company, which was prepared and conducted by CPL Nathan Jones (another RAE, 22 Engineer Regiment member). The workout was limited to core and upper body. The general consensus was that the PM was fairly fit.

Following the PT session, the PM was escorted by the OC to the gym, where TSE-72 put on a demonstration of the TSE capability and skill sets learned over the past six weeks. Sea Training Group were present as they used this as an additional assessment that they were able to observe and identify how TSE-72 planned to conduct continuation training once force assigned.

The final week of training before Force assignment included final medical appointments and briefings. Upon being force assigned that very night TSE-72 had personnel embarked in RAN vessels ready for their at sea deployment.

For their time at sea, the Tri-service Company team came together and achieved all implicit and directed tasks. TSE became an integral part of the Ship's Company wherever and whenever embarked and some TSE crews made it to Singapore, some to Bali, some to Christmas Island, some to Ashmore Island, some to Broome and some to Perth for logistics and resupply visits. All members of the RAE, Army Reserve led TSE Tri-service company group deployed from the Darwin area in support of the mission. Some spent a high number of days at sea, some spent only a few, but all the efforts have been recognised and the team have been individually awarded the Operational Service Medal – Border Protection for their services.

When members were not assigned to vessels, the command team directed that continuation training be conducted including 9mm Weapons Training Simulation System (WTSS) shoots with gloves and MCBAS, PPC and MSD refresher training. The OC directed that TSE-72 whilst ashore would support the Sea Training Group in assisting in preparing the Naval vessels (both Major Fleet Units and Minor War Vessels) for Operation Resolute as either embarked TSE or as simulated opposing force members.

TSE-72, when not assigned to any vessel, and when training had finished for the day, had the opportunity to go into Darwin and participate in the Top End lifestyle. Some members were lucky enough to visit the famous waterfalls in Litchfield National Park and other beautiful attractions that the Northern Territory has to offer.

As a result of TSE-72, a number of new friendships have been made across the three services and a number of old friendships have been strengthened. TSE has supported a number of crews and vessels in the RAN and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service in training, in preparation for operations and in the conduct of the operation itself. TSE-72 developed a good reputation and a number of Armidale Class Patrol Boat Commanding Officers requested the same TSE-72 personnel for future at sea deployments; TSE personnel being invited to join the Ship's Company that they had embarked with, at the end of rotation, for 'crew only' functions; a number of TSE-72 members were asked to stay for another rotation or to take a posting to Darwin with the JTF639 headquarters to support the mission. TSE-72 has set a new standard for what TSE is and should be - a new level of what is now expected from TSE; for now and into the future.

As an Engineer and as an Army Reserve Officer it has been my honour to deploy as an RAE, Army Reserve Tri-service Company Commander – in charge of a team that developed such effective liaison within all facets of the Operation.

TSE-72 has prepared the way for the next TSE rotation (TSE-73), also led by the RAE: OC and CSM.

*... MAJ Scott A. D'Rozario
Officer Commanding TSE-72:*

The list of participants is on the top of the next page

22 Engineer Regiment members Force Assigned to Operation Resolute (TSE-72):

MAJ D'Rozario, RAE (OC TSE-72)	SPR Amos, RAE	SPR Girvan, RAE
CAPT Ferwerda, RAE (2IC TSE-72)	SPR Bedogni, RAE	SPR Hawley, RAE
LT Hogan, RAE (1 PL COMD)	SPR Booth, RAE	SPR Jagger, RAE
WO2 Herter, RAE (CSM TSE-72)	SPR Carney, RAE	PTE Joosten, RAAOC
SGT Hammond, RAE (1 PL SGT)	SPR Challman, RAE	SPR Killey, RAE
SGT Skoblar, RAE (3 PL SGT)	SPR Chaves, RAE	SPR McDonald, RAE
CPL Brain, RAE (1 SECT COMD)	SPR Colquhoun, RAE	SPR Merrett, RAE
CPL Burgess, RAE (3 SECT COMD)	SPR Coutts, RAE	SPR Morley, RAE
CPL Jones, RAE (2 SECT COMD)	SPR Day, RAE	SPR O'Hagan, RAE
LCPL Duck, RAE (1 SECT 2IC)	PTE Del Monaco, RAAOC	SPR Pavlovic, RAE
LCPL Johnston, RAE (2 SECT 2IC)	SPR Dutton, RAE	SPR Rees, RAE
LCPL Thomson, RAE (2 SECT 2IC)	SPR Fossett, RAE	SPR Williams, RAE

* * * * *

BAILEY BRIDGE At The LIGHT HORSE MEMORIAL PARK, SEYMOUR

Outside Seymour, there is a hidden gem and one of the region's prized assets – the Light Horse Memorial Park. The park area used to be a military training area for Victorian Mounted Rifles in 1887-1902, Seymour's own 37th Battalion in 1916, 'Rats of Tobruk' in 1940, 41st US Division in 1942 and many more units throughout the years. In 1939, Puckapunyal Military Area was built and soon became the major military training camp. The use of Seymour Camp gradually reduced over the years and, in 1978, it was sold by Commonwealth Government to Seymour Shire Council. In 1979, the area was declared as a Bushland Reserve, and in 1998 the Australian Light Horse Park was established, recognizing the part played by men and women two trained here and served in many wars, and particularly the contribution made by the Australian Light Horse Regiments.

The park is currently undergoing a major revamp, including the construction of a new pedestrian bridge over the creek. In March, as part of their 9-day exercise block activities, sappers of 105th Construction Squadron of the 22nd Engineer Regiment (22 ER) built a new Bailey bridge to replace the old wooden one that was no longer safe.

This was an excellent exercise for our sappers to upkeep their skills in building Army bridges. A four panel Bailey bridge was constructed by a small work party in just 4 days; including the removal the remnants of the old bridge, the pouring of footings, assembly of the panels and the pouring of the concrete deck.

Park committee members were impressed with the speed of construction and the results. At the end of the construction, the committee organized an 'official opening ceremony' where CPL John Emmery and the committee member Leslie Delzele cut the red ribbon before taking the first steps on the completed bridge. For the locals of Seymour, this was a significant event.

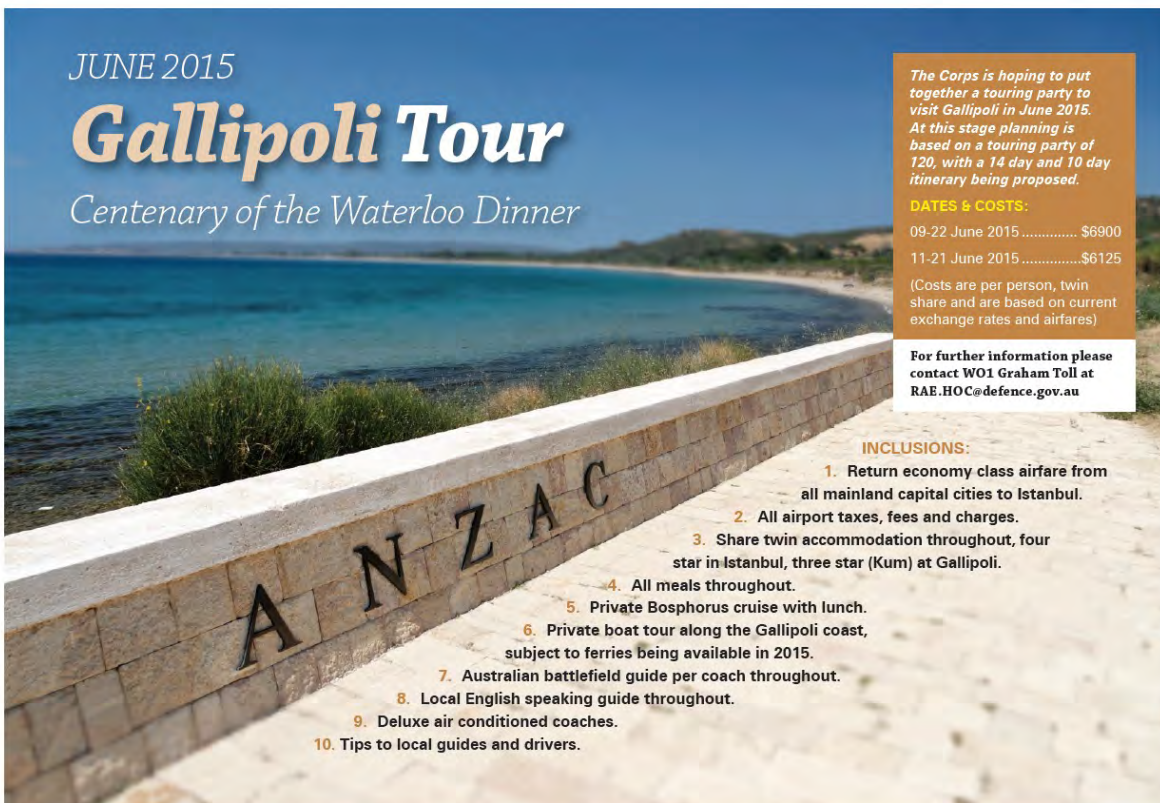
This is a great example, where sappers of 22 ER are able to conduct training in vertical construction, but at the same time, complete real projects for local communities. The project gave our sappers a real satisfaction in their work and showed great value in army service as part of 22 ER. This is not the first community job done by 22 ER. Since 2012, 39 Construction Squadron based in Newborough (now incorporated into 10 Combat Engineer Squadron) has been assisting High Country Rail Trail by supplying timber for historical bridge reconstruction with felling trees in the Shelley coupe area.

... LT Nargiza Hakimova,
Tp Comd, Constv Tp.



22 Engineer Regiment at the Melbourne March:





JUNE 2015

Gallipoli Tour

Centenary of the Waterloo Dinner

The Corps is hoping to put together a touring party to visit Gallipoli in June 2015. At this stage planning is based on a touring party of 120, with a 14 day and 10 day itinerary being proposed.

DATES & COSTS:

09-22 June 2015	\$6900
11-21 June 2015	\$6125

(Costs are per person, twin share and are based on current exchange rates and airfares)

For further information please contact WO1 Graham Toll at RAE.HOC@defence.gov.au

INCLUSIONS:

1. Return economy class airfare from all mainland capital cities to Istanbul.
2. All airport taxes, fees and charges.
3. Share twin accommodation throughout, four star in Istanbul, three star (Kum) at Gallipoli.
4. All meals throughout.
5. Private Bosphorus cruise with lunch.
6. Private boat tour along the Gallipoli coast, subject to ferries being available in 2015.
7. Australian battlefield guide per coach throughout.
8. Local English speaking guide throughout.
9. Deluxe air conditioned coaches.
10. Tips to local guides and drivers.

Reminder — Gallipoli Tour — Bookings are still open. They are looking at a party of about 120 people.

For further information please contact WO1 Graham Toll at RAE.HOC@defence.gov.au or 02 8782 3582

The SME SGTS Mess has a Back to SME Reunion organised for 3/5 October 2014

There is a Cobbers' Night on Friday, and a Reunion Banquet on Saturday evening.

Here is the latest update from Trevor Stenhouse:

Plans are coming along and the event is being booked steadily. I have received about 20 registration for the event but am waiting on many others. Registration closes on 16 Aug 14 and NO registrations will be taken after this date unless there is good reason.

The Commemorative port has been tested and ordered and will be available on arrival. There is limited stocks of 2009 and 2011 port left so get in quick if You want one.

*There will be plenty of accommodation available. There is Living in accommodation available for those single members that wish to sleep in the old accommodation and re-live some old memories. **Point of contact for Live in Acc is myself.** Alternatively there is the Best western that have agreed to give a group discount. Alternatively we have a group discount at the Mercure Sydney Liverpool. They will provide a 12% discount for all "Back to" people This is better than there online booking discount.*

The details are as follows:

BEST WESTERN Casula Motor Inn, 667 Hume Highway, Casula, NSW 2170

Phone: 02 9822 5807, Email: info@bestwesterncasula.com.au; Website: www.bestwesterncasula.com.au

MERCURE SYDNEY LIVERPOOL, 424-458 Hoxton Park Road, Liverpool, NSW 2170

Phone: 02 8777 0600, E-mail : michaeld@mercuresydneyliverpool.com.au; Website : mercuresydneyliverpool.com.au

SME will be providing a Bus service on Friday and Saturday nights for the functions to these hotels, and we have booked a Band for the Saturday night.

..T. Stenhouse

SERGEANT, BACK to SME SECRETARY,
RAE SGT's MESS, SME

Mob 0418 780 590; Email: trevor.stenhouse1@defence.gov.au



Book NOW
with Trevor

From the Associations

WOODPECKERS

THE WEEKEND!

11 – 13TH APRIL 2014



A terrific time - we met at the guide's camp on Friday evening: Rob, Alison, Oliver, Carolyn, Bluey, Nev Handley, John Arnold, Martin Roberts, Mick Murray, John and Dawn Morey - plus locals Cliff Unger and Baz O'Connor and Greg, Baz's son. (Apologies numerous - read them out - Les Malseed was a sad one - as you know he has a hip problem.)

We inspected the Dimboola museum and the *Dimboola Banner* printery on Saturday morning and relaxed that afternoon. Mac Clifford arrived on Saturday arvo. That night we had John Watson's family, plus Susan, Cliff's wife, and the printer, Joe Barry, who keeps the *Banner* museum going, and his partner.

A perfect evening - a great roast for 20 diners prepared by the Ungers with occasional assistance, after-dinner meanderings and a warm-hearted spirit. John Watson died 20 years ago, and his family was rapt to be with us.

In the morning who should turn up but Barney McDonald. We had brunch, an informal Woodies meeting, cleaned up and departed, everyone keen for the next one. The NE is the consensus.

The camp is a great spot - out of town, basic but comfortable, with the river at your feet.

.... Rob Youl
President

Reminder:

The AGM is on Sunday 24th August, at the Box Hill RSL.

Starts with lunch and the AGM follows.



BLUE TONGUES REUNION — 23— 25 May



George Weeks reports that the annual reunion at Majors Creek was again a success. About 25 members either camped or dropped in for a while.

Those setting up on Friday got a bit wet, but the Saturday and Sunday had good weather. As usual camp oven food was a specialty — pork, chicken, wild duck, and more!

Norm Dodgson came on the Saturday and gave the group the run-down on the progress for forming a RAE Association.

There was a discussion on choosing an alternative site in future, but Majors Creek won the day. Once again — a great reunion!

.... From George Weeks

22 Const Regiment Ex-Members — Reunion — 24 to 26 October 2014

We do not have an update on this years reunion at Nagambie.

If you want details, contact Jen — mob 0427 196 038

.... The Editor

Old Sappers' Association Meeting.

At the last meeting on 18 May, only 12 members were in attendance — not enough. We are looking for at least 15 members to be present so a quorum is available to pass business matters

Date: 15 June — Lunch is 12 noon — cost \$ 10
The meeting starts at 2-00 PM.

... John McNabb
Secretary

VALE

SGT SAM BRUTON

Sergeant Sam Bruton died on 15 May. Sam was a revered FCV timber cruiser, and later an overseer, at Or-bost.

He joined the Parks Service in the early 1980s, moving to Portland. Later when CFL emerged, he was regional operations manager there.

Sam played a key role in establishing the Great South West Walk from Portland to Nelson along the coast and inland.

He served in 91 Forestry Squadron from the 1950s to the late 1970s.

He was greatly liked by all his comrades.

... from Rob Youl

If undeliverable, return to

RAE (Vic) Historical & Heritage Association Inc
C/- Oakleigh Barracks
1318 North Road
OAKLEIGH SOUTH VIC 3167

Sapper Summit

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