

RAE CORPS MAGAZINE
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc



SAPPER SUMMIT

Once a Sapper, Always a Sapper



BATTLE of LONG TAN 50th ANNIVERSARY RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF VIETNAM VETERANS

August 18, 2016 marked the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. Although this action was primarily fought by D Company 6RAR, the battle has come to be a symbol of national recognition for all Vietnam veterans. To mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Graham Smith, a Long Tan veteran addressed a gathering in the Great Hall at Parliament House (Continued p3)

Pictured above: Governor General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Graham Smith (D Coy 6RAR Long Tan), and the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP.

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SAPPER SUMMIT

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Inside this issue:

Battle of Long Tan Anniversary.....	p1
ANZAC Day 2016.....	p3
Long Tan Anniversary Address.....	p7
President's Column.....	p9
From the Regiment	p10
Reserve Forces Day.....	p15
Sapper Profile.....	p16
Podcast.....	p19
Rob Youl's Column.....	p21
RAE Memorial Plaque.....	p24
Events Calendar.....	p25
Repatriation Hospital Visit.....	p26
Machine Guns of the Vietnam War.....	p28
From the Associations.....	p33
RSL President.....	p36
Welfare and Support.....	p37
VALE.....	p41
Waterloo Dinner Pictorial.....	p45
Austli Health.....	p48
About the Association.....	p49

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in Canberra. His address, on behalf of all Vietnam veterans is proudly included in this issue of Sapper Summit. (see p7)



Sappers Turn Out For ANZAC DAY 2016

About 80 members of the RAE Association—Victoria, proudly marched behind the Association's banner in the Melbourne ANZAC Day commemorative march on 25 April 2016. There was a strong sense of comradeship among the marchers, who this year, were joined by many serving soldiers as a consequence of the 4th Brigade not participating in the Melbourne march.

The Association's representatives laid wreaths earlier on Anzac Day at Dawn Services conducted by the Ringwood RSL and by 22 Engineer Regiment at the Ringwood East Training Depot.

This year, the Ringwood RSL, which is a strong supporter of our Association, invited the Association to participate in its Anzac Day march and commemorative service on the Sunday prior to Anzac Day. This event was also well attended by serving and retired sappers who proudly marched as a combined group.

A pictorial feature on Anzac Day 2016 is included in this issue of Sapper Summit.



Above: CAPT Noel Tipton commences the 22ER Dawn Service

From the Editor

It is our aim to produce 4 issues of Sapper Summit for our members and friends each year. Due the editor being overseas, publication was delayed and distribution was impacted by the absence of our Secretary. Material planned for issues 94 and 95 has been included in this edition of Sapper Summit. The third and final edition for 2016 will be distributed in December 2016.

I apologize for any inconvenience to readers and our loyal contributors. I hope you enjoy this edition of Sapper Summit.

Editor



Above: CO 22 Engineer Regiment, LTCOL M. McCormack delivering the ANZAC Day Dawn Service address.



Left: Jim Davis lays a wreath on behalf of the RAE Southern Region Corps Committee at the 22 Engineer Regiment ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

Right: Floral Tributes: 22ER, RAE Assoc, SRCC.



RAE CORPS SHOP



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Melbourne-ANZAC DAY 2016



Sapper Comradeship at the FUP
ANZAC DAY 2016



Above: Sappers on Parade



RAE Associatio —Victoria
Assisted by Cadets from Melbourne High School ACU

AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM of MILITARY ENGINEERING

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To collect, preserve and exhibit the history of the Corps of Royal Australia Engineers and the Royal Australian Survey Corps

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Above: The Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. Below: Ringwood RSL Anzac Day Commemorative March and Service.



Above: CO and RSM 22ER

Long Tan Veteran Addresses 50th Anniversary Commemoration Great Hall-Parliament House Canberra



Graham Smith delivering this address at Parliament House

Thank you for your welcome, positive comments and a wonderful reception. And thank you to DVA Commemorations Branch, for making the presence of so many, possible. From what I have experienced, your organisation has been superb.

I'm in awe of this magnificent place, presently filled with so many Vietnam Veterans. It is mainly to you, either as individuals or representatives of your associations to whom I address these comments.

As Vietnam Veterans, we have come a long way, from being reviled to respected, somewhat revered. The journey to respect though, has been painful for many and may never be complete in some minds. That in itself is tragic and those individuals will require our ongoing support.

As a Long Tan combatant, I have no wish to detail the battle on the ground, enough has been said about that. Rather, I want to applaud the wider support from so many in the great feat of arms that has become known as the Battle of Long Tan.

This battle, was far more than a company action. In fact, it became a Task Force Action. It involved all components of 6 RAR to one degree or another. It involved many components of 1 ATF, some at a crucial and life-saving level. Further south of Vung Tau, it involved the doctors, nurses, hospitals and units from 1 ALSG.

Artillery support included 103 and 105 batteries of 1 Field Regiment, 161 Battery NZ and A Battery of the US 2/35 Artillery Battalion. Combined, they fired over 3000 rounds with great accuracy in horrendous weather conditions. Many of the logistics personnel in 1 ATF were engaged in carrying and breaking out more ammunition for the guns, or organising resupplies for the guns from Vung Tau.

The APC's of 3 Troop, 1 APC Sqn, loaded with A Coy 6 RAR eager to provide relief, showed remarkable skill in negotiating a fast flowing, flooded river, a skill not previously trained for, yet achieved without a delaying incident.

Two Iroquois helicopters of the RAAF, carried a resupply of small arms ammunition and dropped this with great precision through the canopy of rubber trees. They were putting their own lives at risk and breaking the existing RAAF rules by flying in such conditions.

Without all that I have mentioned, and more, we of Delta Company would not have survived. I see the Battle of Long Tan as not only a coming together of the military assets, but of mates battling for mates, against impossible odds, in the well-known Australian spirit.

It's interesting to note that it was approximately 28 years ago, when 18th August was declared Vietnam Veteran's Day. Perhaps intended to honour what is now an historic military battle, this declaration has, to my mind, had an unintended impact.

Being a major military anniversary, it is natural that the media will focus on that anniversary. In so doing, the many contacts and battles like Coral, Balmoral, Binh Ba and hundreds of other significant deeds, acted out by you or those you represent, are overlooked. I'm sure that was not

the intention when the date was chosen. If the associations to which I belong had been asked beforehand, we would have suggested an alternative date. Perhaps you could consider an alternative for future years. If you have the desire, you could achieve this with the collaboration of the peak ESO's.

As we all know, the 13-year experience that was Australia's Vietnam War, has been expensive, as all wars are, in terms of veterans and their families suffering. It was pleasing to note recent media reports that more resources are to be placed on treating PTSD in both older and younger veterans.

In 1969, 6 RAR, during their second tour, erected a concrete cross in memory of the Long Tan fallen. While this was done to commemorate the third anniversary, that Cross has come to mean much, much more. It, in itself, has become an icon of the Vietnam War.

In recognition of the Cross's growing importance across all services, in June 2000, I formed a committee to fundraise for renovation of the Cross and to, as importantly, to gain the official recognition of this foreign memorial by the Vietnam government.

With unsparing assistance from the Australian Vietnam Veterans Reconstruction Group, and in particular, Peter Michelson and Rod Burgess, expats living in Vietnam, negotiations to achieve these aims began with various Vietnamese authorities and officials. The Australian Consul General (Saigon) at the time, Lisa Filapetto was also involved. To keep a long story short, all things we sought were achieved and the Cross now stands, on the original site, as only the second memorial to foreign troops in Vietnam. These days, veterans from all services visit the Long Tan Cross for contemplation and to grieve for those lost. In a few hours, there may be more than 2,000 veterans and families there, including Harry Smith, my former boss, and

many other veterans of the battle.

May I say, even though many of us are now into our 70's, if you do ever have the opportunity to visit, please take it. It will give you the opportunity to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those you represent here today and it will give you the opportunity to do so on the site of the historic feat of arms achieved on the Long Tan battlefield by diggers, just like you, 50 years ago.

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On the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, the Royal Australian Engineers Association recognizes and honours all Australian veterans of the Vietnam War for their service to the nation. The Association particularly recognizes Sapper veterans for their courage and service. *UBIQUE*

Editor

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS FOUNDATION

For information about the Foundation and news of events and projects, visit the Foundation's web site or click this link:

www.raefoundation.org.au

President's Column



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear fellow sappers

The Association's AGM was held on 12 April. All committee members were reselected except for Don Hughes who has elected to become Chairperson of the History and Heritage Subcommittee. The Vice President's vacancy has been filled by Bill Van Ree. Bill is a former ARA soldier and was the Training Officer/Adjutant of 7FER in 1982/83. He transferred to the ARES and commanded 22 Construction Regiment in 2001/2003. Bill brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Committee.

ANZAC Activities

The Association was involved with a number of ANZAC activities this year commencing with the Ringwood RSL March conducted on 17 April with 60 members, relatives and friends marching behind the Engineer Banner, marching through Ringwood to the Clock tower where a service was conducted and then to the RSL for morning tea.

Dawn Service

22ER conducted their Annual Dawn Service at the Ringwood Depot with some 150 people in attendance. Wreaths were laid by Graeme Lambert on behalf of the Association and Jim Davis on behalf of the Southern Region Corps Committee. The CO Lt Col Michelle McCormack laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment. This was followed by breakfast.

I attended the Ringwood RSL Dawn Service where some 3000 people attended and I laid

a wreath on behalf of the Association.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Some 80 members attended the ANZAC DAY March through Melbourne. We assembled at Collins street on a beautiful April day. The banner was again carried by six cadets from Melbourne High School. We marched along St Kilda Road, then up ANZAC Parade with heads held high and an eye right at the eternal flame, the wheel and marched to the dispersal area. Members then moved to the south side of the Shrine where photographs were taken. A great day.

Visit to the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital

This visit was on 12 May 2016 and I wish to thank Don Hughes and Margaret Handte for their organization of this visit. The hospital grounds are a monument to Australian servicemen and women with gardens containing plaques from all three services. The chapel was amazing with stained glass windows of exquisite beauty. Some 20 members attended and it was a most worthwhile visit.

Vale WO1 Norm Dodgson

Norm passed away early morning on 19 April 2016. He was a sapper for over 65 years. Norm enlisted into 105 Const Sqn when it was formed in 1950. He progressed rapidly through the ranks to become SSM of 105 in 1962. He was then promoted to RSM of 22 Const Regt from 1975 to 1978. He continued with various RHQ positions until his retirement on 31/12/1987. He was awarded with the following EM, RFM and the National Medal. In 1992 Norm became a foundation member of the RAE Historical and Heritage Committee. He was the committee's first treasurer and retired from this duty in 2014.

Norm was awarded an Honorary Life Membership of the Association in 2014.

Farewell Norm, ease springs your job is done.

Ubique

Colin Bowater

PRESIDENT

From The Regiment



CO 22 Engineer Regiment



The culminating exercise of the last 18 months, Ex HAMEL, will commit a Squadron's worth of Combat and Construction Engineers from both 22ER and 3 Fd Sqn to Cultana in SA for the

first two weeks of July. As I write this, it is immediately before they deploy so stay tuned for the next edition of *Sapper Summit* to hear of their achievements, and other exploits!

Since I last wrote, the 22ER members of this Squadron have been busy preparing for HAMEL through collective training in Demolitions, CBRND and live firing as well as a variety of in-barracks training in many other Corps Mission Essential Tasks. There is more on this and our ANZAC Day commemorations later in this edition. The commitment of the members of the unit has been inspirational, with the majority of the Squadron's unit members having a ended every lead-up block training activity. The reason why this is inspirational is because this has required a substantial amount of me o work for those members to participate in four block training periods in a 16 month period, not including any additional me off work they will have needed to a end promotion and other career courses. And, of course, the families have also enabled this to occur – without their support, the unit could not function and provide the capability to Army that it does. As a result, I want to publicly thank the employers and the families of our unit members for everything that you do to support the Regiment and the

Army.

The 2016 Waterloo Dinner was held at Oakleigh Barracks on Saturday 18th June, 101 years to the day after the first dinner in the dugout at ANZAC Cove. It was a wonderful evening and a ended by over 60 serving and former serving Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers. We were also privileged to have the Head of Corps, Brigadier Wayne Budd AM CSC a end and personally deliver his annual address. There are a number of people who made the dinner the success that it was and they were thanked on the evening, however, Lieutenant Colin Nelson, who as Dining Vice, lead planner and a Reserve member, gave up countless hours of his own me to ensure the night ran smoothly. Well done!

In conclusion, Ex HAMEL is only a milestone in the 22ER calendar – it signifies the beginning of the READY year and the challenge is now on to ensure that the skills that our members have worked so hard to a ain are now maintained and even further developed. This is no easy task as it requires ongoing commitment from all involved, and the resources needed to conduct the training. I look forward to updating you in *Sapper Summit 95*.

Ubique

Michelle McCormack
LTCOL
Commanding Officer

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS 2016 – 22 Engineer Regiment

Commemorations for the 101st anniversary of ANZAC got underway on the 17th April at the Ringwood clock tower. Members of the regiment participated in the march through Ringwood alongside the RAE Association and after the service, congregated at the Ringwood RSL for some light refreshments. It provided a great chance for all and sundry to mingle with

each other and swap stories. Thanks must go out to David Jamison for his hospitality.

The men and women of the regiment continued throughout the period to show that they can “bung it on” with the best of them when it comes to Catafalque Parades. I managed to observe a few of our folks and was very impressed with their efforts, particularly those that were in front of the public for the first time.

It is heartening to note that when our soldiers are in the public forum the cultural diversity of 22 Engineer Regiment is front and centre. The soldiers of the regiment are a wonderful advertisement for gender and cultural equality, showing that people from all walks of life are welcome to serve in the ADF.

Our Newborough based folks more than carried their weight during ANZAC Day. WO2 Ben Stevens oversaw the conduct of five ceremonies which effectively drained the sub unit of personnel. Many of our members in the valley moved from ceremony to ceremony between Moe and Morwell and I would like to publicly thank them for their commitment and devotion to duty.

The metro based guys and girls had their fair share of Catafalque Parades to achieve, many of which were required to be conducted during weekday working hours. SSM 8 SQN WO2 Tom Herter and I would like to thank SSM 10 & 105 SQN for their provision of contingency to 8 SQN and RHQ during this busy period.

The Ringwood Dawn Service at RHQ was a simple yet intimate ceremony conducted around the 4 CER memorial. The Ringwood facility lends itself to this type of ceremony and allows those in attendance to be close to the action. I must thank the RAE Association for their attendance and in particular Jim and Colin for their offers of support during the ANZAC period.

In summary, the ANZAC Day commemorations in 2016 ran smoothly and were appreciated by the members of the community. The CO and I are already considering the format and location for our 2017 dawn service and I look forward to engaging the RAE Association and the RSL as we move closer to that period.

UBIQUE

WO1 Tony Luchterhand
RSM 22 ER



EX PLAT DEMS 2016

Exercise Platypus Demolishes, conducted over the weekend 13-15 May 2015, focused on the development and application of practical demolition skills in a tactical environment, building on the previous year's training for the JACKA Engineer SQN in its lead up to EX HAMEL. The scenario focused on an ENGR SQN conducting a hasty tactical breaching of obstacles and quick denial of routes using explosives. Additionally, the SQN refreshed its CBRND skills conducting a Mask Testing Facility (MTF) practice with CS gas, and practicing crowd control techniques with CS burning grenades.

The JACKA Sqn, based on 10 CES, deployed from Oakleigh Barracks to the 22 ER compound in Puckapunyal on the Friday evening, and conducted battle prep overnight, while recon parties conducted night tactical reconnaissance of the objective, located at Dams West on the Pucka range. Range station,

Observer-Trainers and a composite troop were provided by the remainder of the Regiment to round out the JACKA SQN for the exercise. Concurrently, a section from JACKA was conducting a search task with BG JACKA (based on 8/7 RVR) at the Ballarat airfield and The SQN Recon Officer and Ops Warrant Officer were conducting a Battle Noise Simulation (BNS) tasks for the officer cadets of MUR at the Urban Operations Training Facility in Pucka.

From early Saturday, the JACKA SQN commenced the exercise with a confidence practice to refresh basic demolition skills; then under Troop control, they executed a number of hasty breaching tasks at section level to clear a counter-attack route within the exercise scenario. The scenario evolved with the enemy detecting the breach and beginning preparations to launch their own counter-attack against the engineer breach force. SHQ received new orders to prepare to deny the lane they had opened, and conducted cratering and destroyed a Bailey Bridge as a reserve demolition, closing the lane in the face of the enemy and preventing a counter-attack into the friendly forces flanks. The range ended with a live fire Claymore mine demonstration before transitioning to security tasks overnight.

The SQN remained guarding the flank overnight and refreshed their harbour routine, then commenced the CBRN serials Sunday morning. After the MTF, sections and Troops practiced crowd control techniques and formations in the field, using burning CS grenades as they advanced. Concurrently the Composite Construction Troop refurbished the Dams range to a much better condition than we found it. Both days allowed the Sappers to refresh their skills and provided junior leaders the opportunity to conduct hasty task planning and exercise control of their soldiers in a tactical live firing, adding to their confidence as they prepared for EX HAMEL. The weekend finished with After Action Reviews and section, Troop and

SQN levels, and then a return trip by both coach and convoy back to Oakleigh Barracks late in the afternoon.

Article: MAJ P McComb, OC 8 CES

Photos: SPR Matthew "Magic" Magilton, 8 CES



: An engineer brick from JACKA SQN place charges while conducting a hasty breach of concrete obstacles to clear a lane for counter-attack forces.



Bailey Panel "before" seen above. Bailey Panel "after" below.





Troops deploying CS bursting grenades during crowd control drills



Sappers advance through CS gas on the range.

22 ER Sappers on Ex Hamel A Pictorial Record





Photos submitted by a Sapper Summit reader.



RESERVE FORCES DAY 03rd JULY 2016

The annual RFD was conducted at the Shrine on a clear, cool, crisp Melbourne winters day. The RAE contingent comprised RAE Association, Woodies and along with several other people enable the Engineers to have about 70 people on parade – Old Sappers Association was also represented but chose to march as a separate group. In addition there was the Engineer Standard which was carried by Tony Jackson.

I would say that the RAE was the largest of the groups there and everyone did themselves and the Corps proud not only by their attendance but also dress, bearing and drill. Remember there a lot of older Sappers here who have not been on a Parade Ground for many years but they managed to keep in step and upright!!!.

President of the RAE Association (Colin Bowater) was unavailable and accordingly the RAE contingent was led by Vice President Bill Van Ree. WO2 Fiona Ince once again did us proud by acting as the ASM for the RAE. Members of the RAE contingent came from far and wide with many travelling long distances to be there for the day – this was particularly evident with the Woodies who make such a strong effort to be there irrespective of the weather conditions. This year's celebrations acknowledged 100 years since the Australian 3rd Division was raised and trained in England by recently GOC. MAJGEN Monash. The 3rd Division was to serve with distinction until 1918 when it was disbanded until raised again for WW2. MAJGEN Monash was a Reservist.

Reviewing Officer was MAJGEN Jeffrey Rosefeld AM, OBE, KStJ

In the crowd were a large number of family and friends and it is the support from these people that make it all worthwhile and remembering they were the people that had to put up with so much when we were members of the Defence Force. For instance Bob Amos brought his children along.

Upon completion of formalities a majority of the group headed off to Emerald Hotel in South Melbourne which has been the regular after the march meeting place for many years and provides great food – in all there were about 50 in attendance including many partners, family and friends and it gave a chance to catch up with some many that you only get to see on days like this and spin a yarn or two.

Jim Davis
Secretary
RAE Association



SAPPER PROFILES



THEODORUS HENDRICUS MATHIAS

MARIA BOLTONG

A SOLDIER'S SOLDIER



In recent times I have had a couple incidents that have woken me up and made me realize that whilst you may think that you know somebody intimately in reality and, in most cases, you know very little of that person.

Let me explain – you get to know a person through an association (in this case Army) and in addition develop a friendship outside the military that spans over 30 years during which time you also develop a close social relationship with them and their families. You believe that you have reached a stage where you can say “I know this person”.

Well I have learnt the hard way through the

loss of Norm Dodgson (I didn't know he had 8 children – why because I didn't ask!) and also the subject of this story in Ted Boltong. I felt that I knew Ted as well, if not better than anyone but regretfully that is not the case. The morale of this story is again to “ask questions” and learn.

This is not my story but Ted's but let me give you a quick overview of my first encounter with this bloke. I first met Ted on a Friday night in the back of a D400 truck going down to the Valley for a 7 FER training weekend – I think it was watermanship and it was 1976 – this unknown bloke got into “our truck” and commenced to make himself at home on the floor rolling up his bush jacket as a pillow but not saying a lot – we were “old hands and veterans” and all thought “who is this intruder” into our military world – enough said.

It was obvious from that weekend that this person was destined for bigger and better things and was soon part of the Regiment.



Ted and his family came to Australia from Holland – his name is a dead giveaway as to his origins. There was mum and dad and seven (7) children and the family were extremely poor. Ted arrived at Port Melbourne when he was 9 years old. The family were sent by train to Benalla and housed at Bonegilla Migrant Hostel (near Lake Hume). One thing that Ted remembers

is that the food did not suit them. After leaving the hostel in Bonegilla the family moved to Maribyrnong for about 6 months where they started to learn about Aussie Rules and followed Footscray – this accommodation was just the same as Bonegilla and even though the kids were adapting to Aussie his mum was extremely home sick – the family had a move to Mt Evelyn where members of the family started to obtain work including dad who had a motor bike. After this they moved into Doveton and into a Commission Home – Ted was now about 12 years of age. Ted does not deny that things were pretty tough for the family and he had a pretty hard struggle with the language, schooling and the obvious “new Australian” tag – at this time in history we Aussies were not big in accepting migrants.

One of the first jobs that Ted had was in a furniture shop but then he went on to undertake some factory work

Ted became involved in the CMF (now Army Reserve) in Dandenong which was a unit of Artillery (15 Fd Regt RAA) one of his good mates was one Gerry Smith who also joined the CMF at the same time. Ted joined the CMF on the 19th February 1963 and served for 2 years and 245 days discharging on 21st October 1965 with the rank of Bombardier. Ted remembers that in those days you could take the old .303 home with you complete with the bolt.

The reason for the discharge from the CMF is that he enlisted/transferred into the ARA and joined on the 25th October 1965. Enlisting into the ARA was not as easy as the CMF and in fact Ted missed out on his first attempt but felt he had the right credentials to get into the Army and went back for a second try and was successful. Recruit camp for the ARA was at Kapooka which was a very hard slog and was over three (3) months. Upon completion of basic training at Kapooka Ted was allocated to the RAInf. Ted completed all the normal

aspects associated with a Rifleman but ended up in the reinforcement Company in Ingleburn where he undertook advanced infantry training in preparation for Vietnam

At this stage the Reinforcement Company was put on standby for deployment to Vietnam (24 hours’ notice to move) – during this period intensive training continued in preparation for deployment. Ted mentioned that one of the last activities they conducted at Ingleburn prior to deployment was a 25 Km route march and even though at the peak of their physical fitness this march knocked Ted’s feet around and he ended up with many blisters. It was early July 1966 in very cold and wet Australian conditions. Ted left Australia via Darwin, Manila and Saigon. Arrival in Vietnam was a shock not only due to the tense war zone, people, culture but also the climate which was hot and sticky (Australia was in winter). At this stage Ted was in Vietnam at ALSG Vung Tau where a medical indicated that he was not quite right for deployment to Nui Dat due to his feet and he was kept back. After recovery Ted received the dreaded knock on the tent from the Major saying “your time has come – you are off to the tough end son”. Ted was allocated to D Company 6 RAR (as a reinforcement) – this was a few days after the battle of Long Tan so he reached a Company that had suffered horrendously with a high mortality rate, obviously had low morale and was in the first stages of rebuilding.

Upon reaching D Company Ted was given the choice of being either in a Section or radio operator in the Company HQ. Ted chose the latter.

His CSM was a WO2 Jack Kirby who Ted said did not smile a lot but was very good at his job – a typical crusty old Infantry Warrant Officer. They had to work very closely together so they got to know each other pretty well.



Ted spent a total of 335 days in Vietnam and during this time was involved in many incidents. He recalls that regretfully a particularly nasty one was being caught up in a friendly fire incident on the

06th February 1967 that saw artillery shells fall short and hit the Company HQ – Delta Company was out on patrol (10 Platoon leading followed by Company HQ and then the An – tank Platoon) and had come to a fork in the road which needed to be secured. There were some rifle shots with the result that Artillery support was requested. It became obvious quickly that the shells were falling short. Ted remembers being thrown into the air along with his CSM Jack Kirby – when the dust had settled Ted was knocked about but not injured but he could see his CSM was in a pretty bad way and in fact did not survive the incident.

Ted remembers this action very clearly and with a great deal of regret as the loss of someone like WO2 Jack Kirby is always hard to cover especially in a hostile environment and also as the loss was as a result of obviously unplanned “friendly” fire. In addition Ted had worked closely with WO2 Kirby for some time and had gotten to know him. Ted is very thankful that the Battalion radio operator (LCPL Graham Smith¹) who could anticipate the catastrophic events that were unfolding and immediately called a halt to the firing. What a terrible incident for the Company considering that they were still recovering from Long Tan.

Warrant Officer Class Two Jack Kirby was awarded the DCM for his courage and

leadership during the Battle of Long Tan.

This incident cost the lives of 4 soldiers with another 13 wounded.

Ted speaks of patrols of many weeks where resupply was via choppers with each day potentially your last. Ted continued as the Radio Operator and was involved in many fights and difficult encounters. We who have not experienced a hostile or unfriendly environment where people are keen to dispatch you to an afterlife cannot appreciate how difficult this situation is.

Life in Vietnam was a tough existence and the longer you were there the worse it became with the daily count down to the return home (“how many sleeps now”) – Ted saw friends killed who were there one day and gone the next – they were not given the ceremonial send-off/ departure that is accorded to soldiers



PT on the way home on board HMAS Sydney

who die in current day operations.

After Ted completed his term in Vietnam he returned to Australia on HMAS Sydney which took about 10 days to get home – on board ship Ted found the food was pretty good but at times there was extra protein with weevils in the bread. A highlight was that each soldier was allocated a bottle of beer per day (a longneck – 750 ml). Upon return to Australia Ted was allocated 3 months leave before resumption of duty. A “welcome home parade” was held in Brisbane.

Upon return to duty Ted and was posted to the Demonstration Company at Canungra. This posting involved acting as “enemy” for soldiers preparing to deploy to active service, also as guards, camouflage demonstrators, firepower demonstrations with various weapons (captured Vietnamese weapons/explosives) and how a Section/Platoon reacted under live fire and survived in a war environment

After about a 4 month stint at Canungra Ted was posted to Townsville with 6 RAR and during this period was selected to do a promotion course back at Canungra where the DS were having a quiet time. There were about 20-25 on this promotional course at Canungra. At the completion of this course the members were then bused from Canungra to Townsville. On the way back to Townsville the bus rolled several times resulting in the death of a soldier. This death of a fellow Course member (a Vietnam Vet) with whom Ted had just spent the 4 weeks certainly had a deep impact on people and Ted remembers the accident vividly to this day – Ted was also injured but did not suffer life threatening injuries.

Ted discharged from the regular Army on 24th October 1971 after completing 6 years’ service.

After discharging Ted and the family settled in Victoria and were involved in a corner store in Church Street Middle Brighton. One of Ted’s regular customers was none other than COL John Wertheimer.

After leaving the corner store Ted had a change in employment and became involved in sales with Makita – he then went onto selling safety equipment and established his own business where he is still involved to this day.

After a spell from military life Ted joined 7th Field Engineer Regiment on 11th February 1976 and as I said before it was not long

before his obvious potential was identified and quickly started to move through the ranks reaching the rank of WO1. Ted went on to hold two RSM appointments that of 7 Engineer Support Regiment (7 ESR) and the second as a non-Corps posting as RSM 3 RTB at Puckapunyal.

Following his RSM appointments Ted then became involved in recruiting where he spent several years before retiring from the Reserve on 14th September 2000 – his 55th birthday.

During his military career of some 33.5 years Ted served in 3 Corps – Infantry, Artillery and Engineers, saw active service and rose to the rank of WO1 holding two RSM appointments so for someone who came from very humble

Issue 94 Podcast

ISIS Inside the Army of Terror

ISIS-the ongoing fighting dominates most evening news bulletins. But you rarely hear about the complex broader context of the conflict. Michael Weiss brings you exactly that: valuable insights into the key players; how the movement has attracted global support and financing; and why ISIS is such a threat to the world.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/isis3a-inside-the-army-of-terror/6867342>



Editor’s Note:

Podcasts listed in Sapper Summit do not promote the views or opinions of the RAE Association Victoria Inc. Podcast are included to provide readers with material of historical military or military related interest. (Ed)

as a civilian.

Ted is still very involved with his old Regiment (6 RAR) and over the years has attended many reunions. He is proud of his service to the Regiment and Australia and has recently agreed to become the Victorian Representative for 6 RAR.

Jim Davis

1. Graham Smith is featured on p1 of Sapper Summit



Le :

Ted at the site of the fatal bus roll over in Queensland on route to Townsville.



Above: WO1 Ted Boltong's Army farewell.



WO1 Ted Boltong hosting Edward Kenna VC (centre) at a combined 7ESR and 10 Fd Sqn Mess Dinner, Ringwood East Engineer Training Depot.

Rob Youl's Column

Undecided on this column's theme, with a couple of ideas long fermenting, I suddenly thought: Why not write on Victorian military bases and other sites during World War II, which ended over seventy years ago? So here goes ... from joint headquarters through army, air force and naval installations, the US and other allied units that came and went, and the PoW and alien camps I have been able to identify. Military infrastructure was everywhere. A vast website started things off but a quick recon indicated gaps therein. I pressed on! There are many gaps in my work too!

The story begins on St Kilda Road at Victoria Barracks, Allied Forces HQ from 1939-46. Melbourne was then the centre of defence administration – which shifted to Canberra in the 1950s-70s. The complex housed the War Cabinet Room, in which, apparently, all important decisions were made by the prime minister, aorney-general, ministers of defence, supply and development, external affairs and information, and commerce, and the cabinet secretary, backed by services chiefs of staff and, for a time, General MacArthur. (His Melbourne office was in the Trustees Executors and Agency building at 401-03 Collins Street, his digs a Menzies Hotel suite.) Many other entities operated from the Barracks: a defence secretariat under the leading civil servant Frederick Shedden (knighted 1943); major RAN and RAAF and associated headquarters; signals and codes units; the war room; RAAF wireless units; naval intelligence; and surely many of the military planning bureaus. Perhaps overflows of civil servants toiled in neighbouring buildings and in the city. Certainly US forces occupied Melbourne Grammar and later Wesley, as my mother worked for the Yanks in both locations.

As *Swan Street Sappers* records, at the southern end of Port Phillip Bay the RAA and RAE fortress artillery, searchlight and engineer units stationed at The Heads immediately stood to when war broke out, spending every night out on the emplacements around Point Nepean and Queenscliff staring seawards. These duties continued until the threat dried up in February 1945. Similarly, there must have been various, maybe numerous, anti-aircraft emplacements across the city – where did these soldiers live, and

where did they report for duty?

The major regional army training and staging areas, including for our allies, were of course at Balcombe (US marines), Bonegilla (signals), Darley – outside Bacchus Marsh (USAAF and army units, plus Dutch servicemen from the then East Indies, and possibly PoWs later), Puckapunyal (2AIF), Seymour (a camp for US infantry near Mangalore), Tidal River (commandos and guerrilla warfare) and Trawool (2/22 Battalion). Smaller army training units included Mount Martha, where Z Force formed, and a school of military intelligence that soon moved north. Apparently US forces were housed in Ballarat and Bendigo, but the main facilities were Camps Pell (Royal Park – US army – post-war a notorious emergency housing area for up to 3000 people until 1956), Murphy (the MCG), Straubel and Stanley K Robinson, all in Melbourne – locations unknown for the latter two establishments, but possibly major parks – the most extensive and accessible open space resources in any city. Several hectares of timber buildings occupied Albert Park's southern end, remaining until the late 1970s as a defence signals centre. Three large military buildings on Albert Road became sports stadiums post-war. Some Australian soldiers were billeted at Dandenong market, another easy takeover target, albeit bovine, equine and ovine. The main AWAS barracks was in Fawkner Park. Queens Road mansion, *Grosvenor*, occupied post-war by 3 Division CMF/ARes, was a WAAF location too. Moreover, Langwarrin military reserve, which dated from the colonial era, was also used for training. Drill halls everywhere must have been busy; we know that Swan Street/Batman Avenue housed numerous units and contingents of servicemen in transit.

Wikipedia registers that Puckapunyal had been a mobilisation and training area during World War I, with an ordnance store and rifle range constructed in the early 1920s. In 1939, the area was formally established as Puckapunyal Camp, the Aboriginal name for the large hill within the training area. Many elements of the Second AIF trained there, as did 41 US Infantry Division; other army establishments were at capacity training militia units. The original site proved too small, an additional 5700 hectares were soon acquired. The range now covers some 40 000 hectares.

The RAAF maintained airbases and schools in southern Victoria at Point Cook (pilot training – the original Central Flying School, formed in 1940,

which soon shifted to NSW), Laverton (reconnaissance), East and West Sale (bombing and gunnery – parts of which moved later to Mildura, then Cressy, as did recon), Ballarat (wireless operation and gunnery), Bairnsdale (eventually recon), Mallacoota and Warrnambool, and in the north at Nhill (navigation, armaments and gas), Lake Boga (Catalina flying boats), Mangalore and Benalla (both pilot training). There was also a flying school at Essendon. RAAF Somers provided basic (recruit) training. (Nevertheless, a friend who lived nearby remembered hearing a plane crash into Western Port from his classroom.) At one stage a USAAF unit was to move into Nhill; it did not and the stacked stores sat around for some time before being loaded and shipped elsewhere. Nhill also had a bombing and gunnery range, presumably south of the town on the Lile Desert fringe, at least partly on private property. Mildura's present airport was home to RAAF No 2 Operational Training Unit (2OTU), which trained over 1200 students from 1942-46. Almost every RAAF fighter pilot serving in the South West Pacific theatre either trained at Mildura or did a 'refresher' there. Over 50 young men died in training; they are mostly buried at Nichols Point. East Sale and Point Cook remain operational. Several other strips survive, indeed are vital pieces of regional infrastructure. A few interesting traces remain of the other formerly self-contained military communities, including vestiges or better of concrete ammo stores and bunkers at Warrnambool, Bairnsdale and Mallacoota – in the latter case now the local museum. The RAAF also had a Geelong presence: an Erecton Depot from 4 Air Depot Group. In Melbourne, the RAAF occupied many facilities, including the Showgrounds, Flemington Racecourse, the MCG and Royal Exhibition Buildings. RAAF No 1 Stores Depot, consolidated in Toorak in 1945, had been at Spotswood, North Fitzroy, Laverton, Point Cook and Fishermans Bend. WAAF training and supervision were from barracks in Malvern, Toorak, Corio and Preston.

In the inner metropolis, the RAN took over Melbourne High School. Presumably the major naval staging point was HMAS *Lonsdale* on Beach Street, Port Melbourne. Williamstown naval dockyard must have been very busy, too. However, the RAN's largest depot was HMAS *Cerberus*. Its website indicates: The outbreak of World War II found the facilities inadequate for

the needs of war-time recruits, who were passing through at the rate of 400 a month. Temporary buildings were erected to cope with this sudden influx. The first WRANs arrived in 1942 and, save a short post-war break, have been part of the RAN ever since. The year 1942 also saw an Officers' Training School established; some 1000 sailors graduated before it closed in 1945.

Signals and other co-ordination units included an Anti-Aircraft Operations Room under Preston Town Hall, opened in August 1941, laid out according to British SOPs and responsible for anti-aircraft and searchlight batteries. It accounted for all aircraft approaching the defended area, including domestic civil lights and trainers. It seems Kensington Town Hall, still extant and maintained by Melbourne City Council, had something similar but smaller. Moreover as an intercept station HMAS *Ringwood* operated. I could find nothing about its location – was it on Dublin Road? (Joke!) I have however seen an intact concrete building near Bellarine College, Drysdale, which I recall had been a war-time radar installation linked to the forts at The Heads. Many of the AWAS quartered in Fawkner Park apparently worked in signals. The Postmaster General's Department, the PMG, ran a Radio Security Organisation observation centre to monitor transmissions – location unknown. The RAN had a War Signal Station on the tip of Wilsons Promontory.

After the Battle of the Java Sea, the Royal Netherlands Navy had evacuated to Ceylon and Australia. With Australian help, the East Indies Navy Air Arm set up a new radio network in July 1942 centred on a wireless telegraphy station at Yuroke, east of Craigieburn. The station linked Dutch forces here with their Far East commander-in-chief in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Admiral Helfrich. A teleprinter line connected Craigieburn to 260 (and possibly 225) Domain Road, South Yarra and the Netherlands Forces Intelligence Service. RAAF radars operated along the coastal belt at Cape Otway, Laverton, Melbourne, Wilsons Promontory, Foster and Metung. Come to think of it, the overseas radio masts around Melbourne at Lyndhurst, Diggers Rest, Rockbank (?), Mount Correll, Fiskville and even Shepparton must have been guarded.

Stores and ammunition supply units abounded: Bendigo, Geelong, southwest of Deer Park,

Maribyrnong, Broadmeadows, Kensington and Seymour. Armaments and munitions manufacture was paramount: Bendigo (guns and shell assembly), Maribyrnong (explosives, ordnance and the Munitions Supply Laboratory), Deer Park, Ballarat, Albion (all three made explosives), Albury (fuses), Mildura (primers and gunpowder) and Echuca (ball bearings). Railway lines struck southwest from Albion and Deer Park to extensive and, at the time, but no longer, isolated storage areas. Indeed railways were so important to the war effort, in moving large numbers of men and bulk materiel, fuel, foodstuffs and munitions for long distances. Many military sites had railway access. Meanwhile, aircraft trundled regularly from the CAC and GAF works along the Yarra, flying away to the war via crossed runways (a post-war motor racing venue) across today's Westgate Park. Newport Railway Workshops made Beaufort bomber components. Innumerable factories must have been similarly engaged.

The US Army had a chemical weapons store at Geelong, Kane Ammunition Depot at Bannockburn, and more dumps at Jells Park and maybe Rowville. There were victualling stores in the Neales Motors building, Lorimer Street on the Yarra; South Kensington; Dudley Street, West Melbourne; Port Melbourne again; and Wells Street, South Melbourne – the last two were naval. The Commonwealth Government Clothing Factory must have been busy – one of its premises occupied a block bounded by Dodds, Coventry, Wells and Miles Streets, long since converted to flats.

During war, the RAAMC is very busy. Obviously existing Victorian hospitals played a major part in the war effort, and there were military general and specialist hospitals at Ballarat, Bonegilla, Darley, Frankston and Heidelberg. Camp hospitals operated at Balcombe, Ballarat, Bendigo, Broadmeadows, Caulfield (with outliers at Fishermans Bend and Ivanhoe), Dandenong (Hemmings Park and scout hall), Darley, Geelong, Portsea, Puckapunyal, Queenscliff, Royal Park, Seymour, Tatura-Waranga and Watsonia. The RAAF had hospital units at Ascot Vale and the Showgrounds (perhaps at the same site?), Heidelberg, Laverton and Sale and a convalescent depot at *The Manor*, Werribee. The US Army ran a general hospital within RMH. Peter Dunn mentions a joint-services Chemical Warfare Physiology School; it turned out I knew two members, long gone, of a team the school sent to north

Queensland in early 1943, 'with gas chamber tests being carried out, possibly at Mango Avenue, Mundingburra'.

Equally busy were the provosts; they had subunits at Bendigo, Geelong, Old Melbourne Gaol, Portsea and Puckapunyal. Obviously the corps took over civilian prisons or parts thereof. I cannot resist an anecdote: Very early one morning, a warder on Pentridge main gate heard a knock. It was a US party escorting 'Brownout Strangler' Eddie Leonski. An American voice said, 'Say buddy, can we borrow your gallows?' Shortly afterwards the party emerged with a shrouded corpse on a stretcher. Well, that's what my father told me.

Nevertheless, recreation and welfare of other servicemen and women was of vital concern, including for PoWs and troopships, led by Australian Red Cross, Australian Comforts Fund (which dispatched over 1.5 million hampers to the troops), the Salvation Army and Australian Defence Canteen Service, later the Australian Army Canteen Service. (It seems the other services maintained separate arrangements.) From 1942-44, the American Red Cross occupied Centenary House on the Exhibition and Lillie Collins Streets corner (today it houses the Victorian office of the Liberal Party). There was a USAAF officer club in the city, and in my neighbourhood US officers stayed at the Biltmore Hotel in Bridport Street, Albert Park. During the War there was a US Military Cemetery within Springvale Cemetery, but the bodies have since been disinterred and buried elsewhere, many at Ipswich near Brisbane. Leonski's body was here and at Ipswich, but was removed to Hawaii. (I was interested that a rail spur ran from Springvale to the cemetery proper; short sections may still be apparent.)

Prisoners of war were held at Murchison and Myrtleford, and reportedly Camp Pell. Italian PoWs most certainly were at Rowville (today's Powernet terminal station). Enemy aliens were interned at Dhurringile (briefly) and four camps at Tatura (Nos 1 and 2) and Rushworth (Nos 3 and 4). No 1 opened in 1940 for German and Italian internees, who established tennis courts, workshops, a newspaper and flower and vegetable gardens. Some ran small businesses such as haircutting and tailoring. No 2 opened later that year; at different times it housed German Jewish internees (one hut became a synagogue), Italian prisoners of war and German

o cers. Both camps closed in January 1947. Family groups lived in No 3: Italians and Germans from Iran, Australia, Palestine and the Straits Settlements (now Singapore and Malaysia) and some Jewish families and single women. There were carpentry and crafts workshops and vegetable gardens. German teachers taught in the camp school. No 4 initially housed Europeans in Australia when war started, including Germans, Italians, Hungarians, Finns and Romanians. Their accommodation was poor – the usual corrugated iron huts had no windows. Discipline was strict, but inmates could play tennis, tend their gardens, read and socialise in the camp cafe. After Pearl Harbor the Europeans were relocated, making way for Japanese internees from Australia, Java and New Caledonia, plus some Formosan Chinese. With many children resident, and more born, a Japanese school was established. The women made garments from second-hand clothes provided by charities. The Rushworth camps both closed in 1946, No 3 in February 1946 and No 4 in August. Peter Dunn's website lists another 30 or so PoW-associated locations across Victoria – possibly most facilitated the use of Italian soldiers as farm workers.

Though a war time child, but only just as I arrived in late January 1945, I expected to be surprised by the complexity of the units. I was, but the picture was much more diverse in the northern states closer to the Pacific war's epicentre, especially Queensland. Although admittedly a superficial look, writing this helped me imagine daily life in Victoria throughout the duration, if you threw in rationing (clothing, food, fuel, including firewood), the brownout, separation of families and friends, ubiquitous (including US) uniforms, universal uncertainty, trenches, air-raid shelters, censorship, full employment and so on. Addendum: keeping home fires burning across the metropolis, my forester uncle oversaw a huge western suburbs depot distributing firewood, much of it cut by PoWs, .

What I thought might run to 1200 words ended double that! Readers are welcome to send the editor amendments and additions for future issues.



SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE TRUSTEES APPROVAL RAE MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Following an application by the Royal Australian Engineers Association –Victoria, the Trustees of the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance have approved the design and location of a RAE Memorial Plaque in the Shrine precinct. Whilst other RAE related plaques are already in place in the grounds surrounding the Shrine, there are none that pay tribute to the service of all Sappers. This will be rectified later in 2016 when the RAE Memorial plaque will be dedicated. Members are asked to check the Association's website at www.raevictoria.asn.au and our Facebook Page for further details of the dedication ceremony.



The RAE Association (Vic) is conducting a number of events and tours in 2016. Please check our web site regularly for updates and event details at www.raevictoria.asn.au

RAE Association (Vic) Events Calendar 2016

Committee Meetings 09 Feb, 12 Apr, 14 Jun, 09 Aug, 11 Oct, 13 Dec. Locations and times TBA

History Project Meetings (bi monthly) Contact Noel Tipton 22
Construction Regt and Don Hughes for 4 CER details.

Sapper Summit - tri monthly.

"LARK FORCE" celebrations Jan (OSA)

2016 Sapper Muster 27 Feb at Oakleigh Barracks

Visit to SME Museum Saturday 12 March

Good Friday Children's Appeal (Bus from Ringwood Depot) 25 MARCH

Association AGM 12 April preceded by Committee of Management Meeting.

17 April Ringwood RSL ANZAC March

Heidelberg, ANZAC Ceremony Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital 22 April

ANZAC Day wreath laying Dawn Services Ringwood RSL and 22 ER

ANZAC Parade 25 April. March with RAE Association Victoria banner.

VISIT to Repat Hospital Thursday 12 May

Blue Tongues Reunion Nagambie dates TBA

Sir CLIVE STEELE Lecture 27 May Oakleigh Barracks,

Waterloo Dinner -18 June -Loc TBA

OSA Waterloo Dinner June Loc TBA

Reserve Force Day March 3 July at the Shrine.

Long Tan Vietnam Veterans' Day August 18

Peacekeepers and Peacemaker Day = September

22 Construction Regiment Reunion Group 21-22 October Bendigo

Woodies

Location and dates TBA

Visit 22 ER Sapper training TBA

RAE Foundation "Reynolds Dinner" visit www.raefoundation.org.au

Puckapunyal Firepower Demonstration – October

Remembrance Day 11 November

22 Engineer Regiment End of Year Parade and RAE Association Awards presentation – November

Sapper Christmas get together - TBA



Above:

BRIG Wayne BUDD delivering the Head of Corps Address at the RAE Southern Region Waterloo Dinner, June 2016.

A pictorial feature on the Waterloo Dinner is included in this issue of Sapper Summit.

REPATRIATION HOSPITAL VISIT 12TH MAY 2016

Through the personal efforts and endeavours of Don Hughes a visit to the Repat Hospital was arranged. Don is an avid and very strong supporter of the Repat and was anxious for the Association to make this visit. Don does a lot of volunteer work for the Repat and this includes giving support and assistance to a number of young veterans from Ward 17.

A number of people raised some apprehension about the value of an excursion like this in visiting "the Repat" and what we would get from this visit but without doubt I am sure these misgivings would have been quickly forgotten once we arrived at the facility.

The Repat Hospital sits on about 50 acres of land in Heidelberg and but from the outside it is impossible to understand the significance of these wonderful facilities and grounds. It is part of the Australian Group of hospitals and without doubt that due to its age it is in need of much work in some areas. Like all medical facilities it is always looking for additional funding for restoration work and modernization.

We were met in the carpark by a group of volunteers who look after visits such as ours and it was obvious from the word go that they are very, very passionate about the part they play in the hospital and its future. Without these volunteers a huge void would be left not only in activities such as this but maintenance, gardening, support to patients and most of all fundraising. I can say that in my view they are the lifeblood of the Repat – I am not detracting from the work of the professionals.

I cannot speak highly enough of these unpaid workers who are a credit to the hospital and so dedicated and passionate about their "Repat".

The employment stats from the Australian Group of hospitals is staggering with some 8500

people employed either on full or part time and supported by a very large volunteer group.

The first port of call was to start the day with a cuppa and biscuits and a briefing from the lead volunteer – their enthusiasm was infectious and we all felt right at home. In addition we also had to wait for a few of our group who seemed to have got themselves misplaced. The volunteers appear to usually have some military or Police background.

The tour started and went for some 3 hours – each of the volunteers with us was a wealth of knowledge and could explain the history of the various areas, monuments, memorials or gardens plus in many cases they were able to add little bits of history that over the years has become obscure.

The gardens, Chapel and the memorials are really beyond description in this report and I am not going to try and cover them all as I will not do them justice. Some of the views back towards Melbourne city can only be described as "million dollar views" so it is a very wealthy piece of land.

After we had completed our tour of the gardens, Chapel, Gymnasium, swimming pool and other areas it was on to Ward 17.

Ward 17 houses up to 20 patients and these people vary in ages from young to old – it is not only military personnel but also support services such as Police that seek the assistance of this Ward. We must acknowledge that some of our young veterans returned from OPS the worst for wear but are receiving top level care including two young Sappers who were certainly happy to see the RAE Association visiting.

The main facilities of the swimming pool and gymnasium are open and available to all veterans and I know that some of our members make use of these facilities. Allan (Blue) Rantall was very proud to show me his photo on the wall of the gym (in his Greens) when he was on leave at home before deployment (I think).

All in all I am in awe of the volunteers, memorials, grounds, Chapel and history of this facility and we in Victoria should be proud that this wonderful establishment is part of our hospital system and whilst it would be great if it was not required we must be thankful that it is there and available and try to support it anyway that we can.

If you get the opportunity of visiting the Repat even just to see the memorials and Chapel please do so – you will not be disappointed.

The memorial gardens have a huge number of plaques and acknowledgments that have been erected by vets or their descendants commemorating many conflict but have to be seen to be seen to appreciate their significance.

The Repat Hospital is not only there to provide medical treatment but provides a very valuable service to our Vets in need of additional care and ably supported by the volunteers.

A major milestone or development that has happened is that through the wonderful efforts of Don Hughes a roadway at the Repat Hospital has been renamed “Sappers Lane”

which is a significant acknowledgement to Don and his work. A large rock has been positioned at the start of the roadway and a suitable plaque will be commissioned by the RAE Association. This plaque will outline the history and role of the Sapper with an unveiling scheduled for 2017 – I am not aware of any other roads within the Repat complex dedicated or named after other Corps and this is a real achievement for the RAE – thank you Don and because of you this memorial will live on for many years to come.

This report does not really do full justice to the wonderful work of the Repat or its army of volunteers.

Jim Davis

Secretary

Below: RAE Association-Victoria Repatriation
Hospital Tour Group



50th Anniversary of Battle of Long Tan Feature Machine Guns of the Vietnam War

This is the second feature in a series on weapons used in the Vietnam War.

AUSTRALIA-NZ/US/ARVN

GPMG M60 ("The Pig")

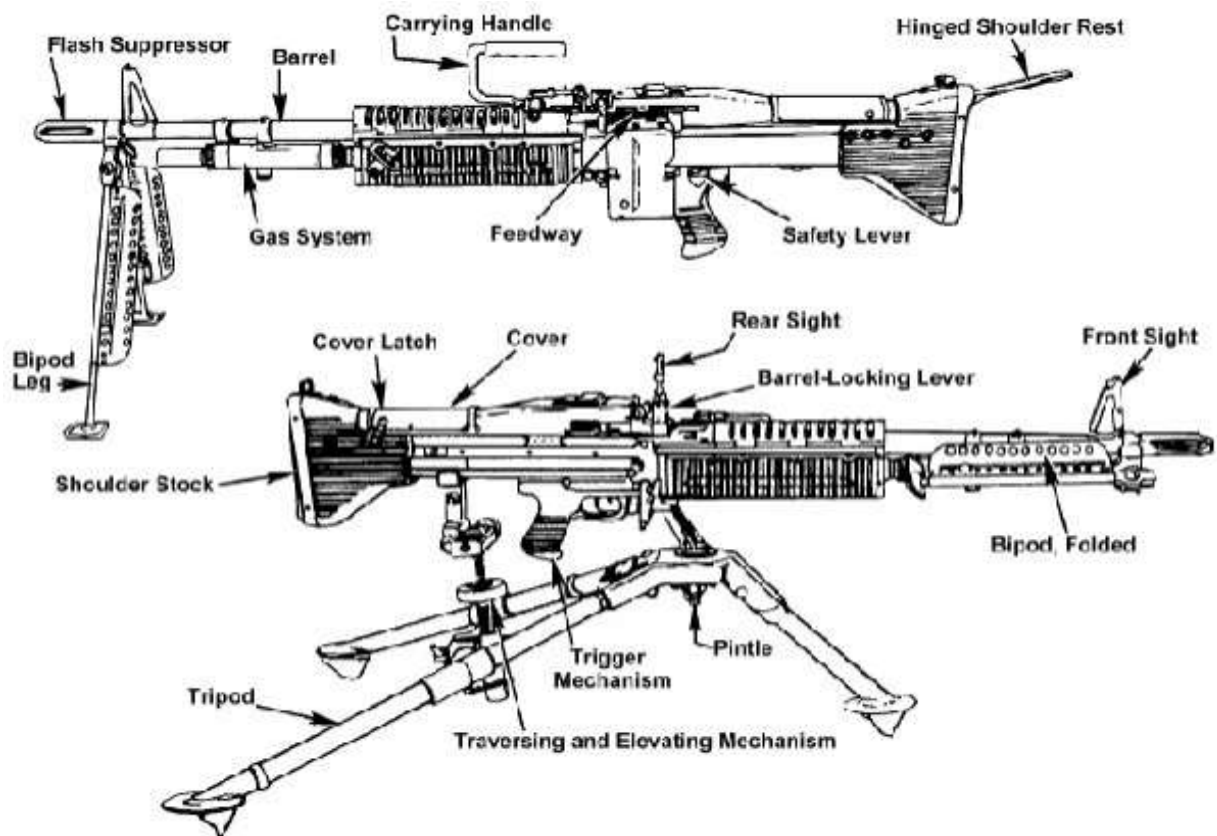


Above: M60 in sec on support weapon config ratio .
Right: Australian soldier in Vietnam armed with an M60.
Below: M60 in light machine gun config ratio .



Calibre	7.62mm
Weight	10.5kg
Length	1105mm
Muzzle Velocity	855 m/p/s
Rate of Fire	880 r/p/m
Type of Feed	50 round belt





Browning M2 0.5" Heavy Machine Gun



Calibre	12.7mm
Weight	38.1kg
Length	1654mm
Muzzle Velocity	884mps
Rate of Fire	575rpm
Type of Feed	110 round metal link belt

Browning M1919



Calibre	7.62mm
Weight	14kg
Length	964mm
Muzzle Velocity	850 mps
Rate of Fire	600 rpm
Type of Feed	250 round belt

NVA/National Liberation Front

7.62mm PK



Calibre	7.62mm
Weight	9kg
Length	1160mm
Muzzle Velocity	825mps
Rate of Fire	720 rpm
Type of Feed	100,200 250 round belts

RPD



Calibre	7.62mm
Weight	7.1kg
Length	1036mm
Muzzle Velocity	700 mps
Rate of Fire	700 rpm
Type of Feed	100 round belt

RPK



Calibre	7.62mm
Weight	5kg
Length	1035mm
Muzzle Velocity	732 mps
Rate of Fire	660 rpm
Type of Feed	30, 40 round box

SG 43



Calibre	7.62mm
Weight	13.8kg
Length	1120mm
Muzzle Velocity	863 mps
Rate of Fire	640 rpm
Type of Feed	50 round drum

DShK 38



Calibre	12.7mm
Weight	33.3kg
Length	1602mm
Muzzle Velocity	843 mps
Rate of Fire	600 rpm
Type of Feed	50 round metal link



FROM THE ASSOCIATIONS



WOODPECKERS RAE ASSOCIATION INC

A0049231P

Ex WWII Forestry Companies, 91 Forestry Squadron, 55 Resources Squadron, 105 Construction Squadron, 105 Engineer Support Squadron

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PRESIDENTS REPORT – 2015-16

The Woodies have had a quiet year, which suits us nicely.

We enjoy good relations with Victoria's RAE Association. Anzac and Defence Reserves Day marches run smoothly.

Sadly in the last twelve months we have lost some good friends: Peter Billing, former OC Don Anderson, WO I Norm Dodgson and Lt Bob Fitzwilliam.

The Woodies' weekend late last year at Koetong was a pleasure, not least because Beth Stevenson made it across from Dunedin, NZ. The next get-together is likely to be at Wangara in early 2017. Good news: the World War II forestry companies axemanship trophy was unearthed at the ANU resource management school and presented to the Australian War Memorial. Meanwhile John O'Sullivan, the last known survivor of the forestry companies died in WA.

Thanks to official bearers Jacko, Richy, Yak and Mick.

Rob Youl

From The Associations-continued on p34 and p35.

FROM THE ASSOCIATIONS

BLUE TONGUES REUNION 13 – 15 MAY 2016

The annual “Blue Tongues Reunion” was held at Major’s Creek Nagambie during the weekend of 13 – 15 May 16.

The original idea for the activity was devised by George Weeks, Les (Foxy) Francis (ex SRWSC) and Billy (Mitch) Mitchell (also ex SRWSC) and mainly directed towards members of 105 Construction Squadron but over the years the popularity of the gathering has grown and now encompasses many other sister and related units.

The reunion is open to all ranks and as in the past it was supported by ex OC’s, WO’s, SNCO and OR’s with the only provisos being leave your rank at home, come with a great attitude, plenty of photos, stories and be prepared to be amazed by the great people that you will meet.

Weather conditions this year were favourable and although the mornings started with a very crisp day there was a large number of people coming and going over the weekend. Some people just drop in for a few hours to catch up and renew acquaintances with the old crew and talk war stories.

There was a good turn up of the originals and old faithfuls along with some newer members. Several members were that keen they turned up a day early so that they could secure the best camp sites closest to the fire and facilities. There was a good number of caravans and assortment of tents.

Returning to the fold this year was Billy Mitchell who was a big absenteeism from last year’s activity. Beth Stevenson (New Zealand) was an apology this year due to family



UNIT HISTORY WRITING PROJECTS

Victorian Engineers: 4 CER & 22 CONST REGT

Brigadier “Hutch” Hutchinson DSC, our Colonel Commandant RAE Sothern Region, is impressed with the enthusiasm displayed towards the Victorian Sapper Regimental history project, thus far! The teams are based on *“CO’s Years of Command”* of both of our Regiments and the writing teams are starting to group together well! Stronger teams however, are always desirable & much needed!

The secret of a good history is to get a broad diversity of views and a true assessment from both the Political level to the Sapper on the ground, “blood & guts” level! We welcome diverse input to your history and we encourage the various “eras” to get together and produce your story!

To align both unit histories **Brig “Hutch”** decided to have both the 4CER and 22 Construction Regiment histories follow on from the classic Victorian Sapper History up to 1995, *“The Swan Street Sappers”* written by **Lt Col Rob Youl OAM, RFD (Retd)**. This is a most sensible approach as it includes both Regiments from 1995 until 2013 – including some amazing years for 22 Construction Regiment at both Weipa and Cultana that would have otherwise been excluded if we had only commenced 22 Construction Regt’s history from 2000 as previously proposed!

We always need assistance. A suggested template or guide for the project is included at the RAE Victoria Website: <https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/projects-and-events.php>

Any submissions should be directed to: sapper.history.vic@hotmail.com.au

Captain Noel Tipton is looking after the 22 Construction Regiment history whilst Lt Col Don Hughes (Retd) is monitoring the 4 CER history.

commitments.

Travel and distance is not something that has deterred people turning up to support this activity with many travelling long distances to a end.

There was a touch of sadness with this year's event as we had said goodbye to our mate Norm Dodgson - a regular attendee and always a favourite was Norm Dodgson.

The group has lost a few members over the years which raised a conversation amongst the assembly about having a memorial to those people who have supported the reunion but are no longer with us. Fish (Colin Fraser) has had prepared a piece of beautiful timber nicely polished that will be inscribed with the names of those people – it will be a fixture but removable and brought along each year and displayed – it will be inscribed "Major's Creek Engineers". When the time comes that the activity fades out then hopefully this plaque will be passed onto the RAE Association (Vic) Inc. for safe keeping and displayed for future generations.

Food was aplenty with wonderful treats and roasts from the camp ovens showing that the boys have not lost their touch. In addition BBQ's were ongoing with ample nibbles

available for those who wanted to venture from the camp fire.

Dave Stevenson raised a point that we should be encouraging some of the younger sappers to a end but to achieve this the weekend would be scheduled not to conflict with a training weekend. The challenge will certainly be before the group to get the younger ones involved.

This is a great activity and George and his team need to be thanked for their efforts and encouraged to keep up the good work.

Well the reunion will now be put to bed (lights out) for another 12 months with the escapades reminisced and talked about until 2017.

If any reader gets the opportunity of participating in the 2017 reunion you should jump at it with both hands and come along for the experience of a lifetime. It is a great weekend.

Without reunions and gatherings like this so much of the Corps Victorian history would be lost and whilst not everyone would agree with the concept of this weekend it is an important event on the social calendar



WELFARE AND WELLBEING

RINGWOOD RSL President's Column



Ringwood RSL

Sub Branch President's ANZAC Address

Our ANZAC Day services commemorate the ultimate sacrifice paid by over 100,000 Australian Defence Force men and women who fought for our freedoms and way of life. Australians have always had a special regard for our service personnel. A recent former PM described this as a "special compact" and former Prime Minister Billy Hughes put it this way; *"They went forth willingly to do their duty to Australia; Australia must be equally ready to do its duty to them"*. The election has provided the veteran community with the opportunity to advocate for redress of the policy failures of successive governments in its treatment of service personnel and in veteran support. We have reminded those seeking public office of the country's obligations to our living service personnel, our veterans and their families. Our continuing task is to ensure our elected representatives live up to their responsibilities and ensure the Nation in the words of Billy Hughes, does its duty to them. Because there is no formal written "compact" against which government policies and legislation can be benchmarked, the unique nature of military service and the demands this places on defence members has faded from the minds of decision makers. Federal politicians have allowed the dead hand of the bureaucracy to gradually whittle away the provisions made by parliaments over the years to recognise and support our veterans in particular. The time has come for an overhaul of government policies and processes relating to our military personnel and their families as evidenced by the many experiences being told by veterans of more recent conflicts where their dealings with the Department of Veteran Affairs have led to adverse consequences rather than their being given the support they need. Let us be very clear, no member of the ADF who is sent to a war zone or who witnesses genocidal acts remains unaffected. The sounds and images and emotions experienced remain with those individuals for the rest of their lives. The ex-service community leaders continue to fight hard for fair treatment but without strong community support we will continue to see stories in the media of veterans suffering unnecessary hardship.

In the era of Gallipoli the way of life in Australia was fairly straight forward. It was easy to categorise evil ideologies as being alien and external to us. However these are increasingly weird times and we now live in a community where the clash of World Views is a reality among us. This is becoming increasingly obvious but seemingly not to most of our elected representatives or the media. Our World is becoming less stable and the rise of terrorism cannot be ignored. We need to gain a better understanding of the root causes of this instability



and violence or we will never overcome them. It seems to me that instead of identifying the causes and developing strategies to combat them, our leaders and the media look at the symptoms and think actions to combat these will provide the answer. That is a wrong assumption as shown by the recent acts of terrorism and the continuing streams of invective towards their targets by their instigators and supporters. It seems there is no moderating of outlook but a hardening of attitude towards those who view acts of terrorism not as glorious acts in support of a noble cause but see them for what they are, cowardly

brutality promoting a totalitarian ideology alien to our way of life.

Australia has a reputation for being a tolerant and open society but this is no excuse for allowing people with a different World View to dictate how we should shape it into the future. The very reason so many people try to come here to settle is because of who we are and the freedoms we enjoy. These are hard won; our service personnel have fought to preserve them and we must not let them be eroded because of some momentary blindness, the the encroachment of restrictive legislation or imposed social norms advocated by minority but vocal elements.

We have an enduring responsibility to honour the Na on's service personnel who died in ba le by working to preserve the freedoms they fought for and fight any and every attempt to restrict them.

Ringwood Sub Branch Club News

We have a full range of activitie for members. The monthly ra e on the last Friday of each month has 50 draws for prizes ranging from large screen TVs and other electronic devices, weekends away for couples to garden tools and everything in between. We have regular UFC screenings on our large screen in the VC func on room and of course the bistro with its with quality food from its extensive menu and the children's playroom remains very popular.

The VC functi n room is a popular venue for private func ons such as birthdays, anniversaries and celebra ons of life events etc. If you have a milestone you wish to mark call the Sub Branch receptioni t (98706604) to discuss how we could help make it a memorable tim .

WELFARE and SUPPORT

Sapper Summit recognizes the demands placed on individuals through their military service. Through Sapper Summit, the RAE Associa on (Vic) aims to provide informa on to the Sapper Community on support and welfare services available both locally and na onally. The Associa on also aims to promote welfare, well being awareness and educati n. **Members have suggested the following support services.**

The pension o ce is there to support all ex-service personnel and help them to compile and submit claims for DVA support. Kyme Ryan our welfare o cer has a wealth of knowledge and an extensive network allowing her to provide expert advice and support to the ex-service members and their families facing di culties or just in need of advice on support services provided by DVA, local government or community organiza ons. If you need advice or assistance please call the Sub Branch on 98706604.

The Sub Branch off rs a place where you can meet up with your friends for coff e, a quiet ale or enjoyable meal served by our friendly sta . We also waive the membership fee for serving members of 22 Engr Regt.

David Jamison President Ringwood RSL

David Jamison and the Ringwood RSL provide ongoing support to the RAE Associa on—Vic. Members and readers are encouraged to support the sub branch and utilize its social facilities and veteran support services. Editor





SOLDIER ON

"Supporting Our Wounded Warriors"

Visit: www.soldieron.org.au

RAE Association (Vic) is a proud supporter of

SOLDIER ON

This message provides a brief update on activities within Melbourne for Soldier On veterans and families. I would encourage you to forward this information onto your extended groups and networks and also encourage you to take advantage of the services and support that Soldier On offers.

Upcoming Shrine Talk—Peacekeepers and PTSD: The Psychological Legacies of Australian Peace Operations

Soldier On is partnering with RMIT to offer Skills and Job Centre Workshops. The attached flyer provides more detail on the range of workshops and the target audience.

Please pass this info onto fellow veterans and their families. Enquiries are to be made through the vic@soldieron.org.au email address.

Coffee Catch up at the Gregory Sher Centre tomorrow, Thursday 23 Aug between 1030-1200am. Open house please feel free to drop in and bring along a fellow veteran.

Association Shirts & Caps Available to Order



<https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/merchandise.php>



Employment Opportunities. Soldier On is having

RAE Association Stickers Now Available

Click link for ordering details

<https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/merchandise.php>



Alcoholics Anonymous

Specialist Meeting for the Services.

Current & Past members including; Police, Fire, Ambulance, Army, Navy, Air Force, Prison etc; Sappers most welcome!

The Phoenix Group:

Unity, Service, Recovery

Phone: 24 hour help line

(03) 9429 1833

www.aavictoria.org.au

Facebook - AA Victoria

AlcoholicsAnonymous.Victoria

Facebook - AA Victoria News

Magazine

Alcoholicsanonymousnewsaustralia

Twitter

@aamelbourne

Instagram

alcoholicsanonymousvictoria#



THE ANGEL SQUAD



photoexplorer57@yahoo.com.au

There is no Angel Squad report for this issue of Sapper Summit. We look forward to the next update in Issue 95. Ed

PTSD— A Reader's Contribution

The following is a contribution received from a Sapper Summit reader. It is published as part of the ongoing conversation on PTSD in particular and veteran welfare in general. Editor

I'm not a veteran and I've never been involved in armed conflict. In spite of this I have been generously offered the opportunity to write a column for Sapper Summit.

So what do I have to offer this community?

My professional background began as a Registered Nurse over 20 years ago, and in more recent years I've opened my own clinical practice in Melbourne's CBD as a Clinical Hypnotherapist.

I'm also a survivor of PTSD.

Many years ago I was fortunate enough to find a therapist who introduced me to a technique that quickly helped me find closure with memories that I thought I would have to live with for the rest of my life. It was the greatest gift I was ever given because it was the first time in my life that I remember feeling normal. I've visited this therapist several times since then, whenever life threw something at me that I wasn't able to resolve on my own, and years later she became a mentor and helped train me in a big part of the work I do today.

Using my insight and training together, I have had a lot of success helping people quickly and effortlessly reach their own closure with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and anything else that may have been getting in their way of having a sense of inner peace.

I have had my fair share of traumatic experiences, several of which for a time seemed permanently embedded in my memory, and all of which have been thankfully put back in the past where they belong. The details of them have faded and I no longer look back on those events as significant anymore.

I personally suffered through eight months of PTSD following an unprovoked assault by a patient several years ago at work. The impact was profound and affected every area of my life. I spent eight months just surviving the impact of that event, reliving it in what seemed like every waking moment.

When I was backpacking overseas I had a gun pulled on me and for about 10 seconds I believed beyond question that I was about to die. Terror is the word I would use to describe the experience of those few moments. My

body froze as I confronted the end of my life in a foreign country.

As a child I endured several years of sexual abuse, which unfortunately is a lot more common than many people realise.

As traumatic as any of those experiences were at the time, it may hardly sound like they qualify me to understand what it's like for someone to serve in the military and to deal with the constant real threat to their life or safety and others around them. I've heard veterans and emergency service workers recount some of their experiences and they can make my own seem inconsequential in comparison.

There is however a common theme that I have become present to from my own experiences, from studying PTSD and from working with clients who have suffered from it. Regardless of the events that caused it and the severity of the symptoms, there is generally a common theme of helplessness, uncertainty, overwhelm or isolation, sometimes a sense of responsibility or guilt, and a heightened emotional state.

There is no shame in having PTSD. It's the brain's natural response to a situation where our life or safety was threatened, or we witnessed something horrific, and for a brief moment at least we felt alone or helpless to do anything about it.

That's not to say we *were* alone or helpless. When I was assaulted at work there were four people much bigger than myself right beside me who very quickly intervened. I was definitely not alone, but in that moment it very much felt like that.

We as humans hate feeling helpless or uncertain and we hate not knowing what to do. When we live through an experience such as mentioned above, our brain effectively embeds the events of the experience in vivid detail into our memory. It's a built-in survival mechanism we have, designed so that we recognise the same danger in the future and

avoid it. This becomes a problem when our brain doesn't just label the memory as dangerous, but every individual aspect of it as well. All the colours, smells, sounds, and even the temperature associated with the memory can become triggers to mentally reliving it. The flashbacks can be as vivid as our most recent memory, each time they occur the body reacts as if the original event was happening all over again.

The pathway I've discovered to helping someone get their life back from PTSD is not to revisit the traumatic memory directly, but instead address that feeling of helplessness from a place that is not enmeshed in the experience itself.

There are several approaches I use, all are intended to avoid re-triggering the original memory. One way is via an otherwise seemingly benign memory where a sense of helplessness was experienced. By separating the feeling from an earlier memory, it can have a domino effect on all the areas of life where the impact of helplessness was felt.

It's not a long process, in most cases relief is felt after the first session. Further sessions can be helpful to address other life issues that may have resulted from the fallout of PTSD.

The result can be that vivid images suddenly feel distant and memories quickly lose detail. Relaxation becomes natural and life can start to return to normal again. People start getting their lives back with a newly discovered freedom to move forward.

Tony Cook
Clinical Hypnotherapist
Bach. Nursing, Dip. Clinical Hypnosis
PTSD Survivor

p: 0432 808 450
e: info@corehypnosis.com.au
w: corehypnosis.com.au

VALE—WO1 Norman (Norm) John Frederick DODGSON

Born 16th April 1931
2016

Died 19 April



Norm Dodgson many sapper friends were saddened to learn of his death on 19th April 2016 – a man who served as a Sapper for most of his life

Norm Dodgson served actively in the RAE for 37 years and was considered a Sapper for 65 years. He was a member of a family of 4 generations of Australian servicemen.

Norm's father was a veteran of WW1 where he served at Gallipoli and then during WW2 he served in the Home Defence.

Norm served continuously in 22nd

Constructive Regiment (SR) from 23rd September 1950 until his retirement on 31st December 1987.

Three of his sons (Norman, Peter and Les) have to date served a total in excess of 70 years in the Australian Military Forces mainly in the ARA and 2 grandsons, Joshua and Mitchell are currently serving.

Sapper Dodgson was the second youngest recruit to enlist in 105 Construction Squadron when it was raised in 1950 – 105 then being a sub unit of 22 Constructive Regiment the first Supplementary Reserve RAE unit to be raised in Australia. At the time of his enlistment Norm was employed by 105 Const. Sqn's sponsoring authority, the State Rivers Water Supply Commission at Heyfield.

Norm progressed rapidly through the ranks to become SSM of 105 Constructive Squadron in 1962 retaining that position until 1968. After various other HQ positions he again became SSM 1972-1974 and then RSM 22 Constructive Regiment 1975 – 1978. After this he served in various RHQ positions until his retirement on 31st December 1987.

Recognition of his sterling service to RAE has been acknowledged by the awards of EM with 2 clasps, RFM with 4 clasps, National Medal and Australian Defence Medal.

His service was always notable for his dedication to his unit and the many people who served under him as well as his loyalty to his Officers and all his many friends. This loyalty was matched by the support he received from his wife Judith and their large family.

In 1960, whilst working on the HEYTESBURY Soldier Settlement Project he met Judith (she was the absolute love of his life) who was then working at Mortlake. They were married on 05th May 1961 and eventually became the proud parents of 8 children, grandparents of 21 and, to date Great Grand Parents of 7. We

or Judith and all the family our deepest sympathy in their great loss.

Norm was always a great supporter of Army related activities.

In 1992 he became a formal member of the then named RAE (H&H) Association Inc. He was appointed its first Treasurer in 1997 and continued in that role until 2014 when the H&H Association became the RAE Association (Vic) Inc. Norm's contribution was recognised by awarding of Honorary Life Membership of the new Association.

Norm was an active member of the Old Sappers Association for many decades and his service to the OSA included posts of Treasurer and Vice President. Norm was also a keen supporter of the Blue Tongues and the Woodpeckers Associations.

Norm was also involved in the early stages of collating data for the preparation and later publication of Swan Street Sappers

His membership at the East Malvern Sub Branch RSL included appointments as President from 2008-2010. He was in fact on duty for the RSL selling ANZAC Day Poppies on the day before his admission to hospital with a heart attack which resulted in his death a few days later surrounded by his loving family

Norm's funeral service was attended by over 200 mourners including many Sappers and was held at the Holy Eucharist Church on 26th April 2016. The service also included a traditional RSL Service conducted by Mr Jeff Christopherson of the East Malvern RSL.

Norm was a devoted Catholic and an elder of his Church and had attended the same Church since moving to Melbourne 50 odd years ago. Two weeks before his passing Norm handed the Priest (Rev Fr William Edebohis) a letter of resignation for his official duties at the Church advising that as he turned 85 years on 16th

April 2016 he would be hanging up his boots and his last service would be on 17th April 2016. Regrettably Norm he did not achieve his retirement from the Church. Father Edebohis used this short, but well written letter from Norm to give a wonderful insight into Norm.

As Jim Davis so aptly expressed *"Norm you have accomplished your tasks here to the highest possible standards of a sapper and have earned your place on any parade but for now ease springs, rest and enjoy your VB"*



VALE BOB FITZWILLIAM ED

23 June 2016

Bob grew up in inner Melbourne, the son of a hairdresser. Tuberculosis claimed his mother in 1926; his father remarried his mother's closest friend. Along with studies at South Melbourne Tech, Bob did a fitting and turning apprenticeship with John Danks & Son, which meant, to his sorrow, he could not enlist during WW II. The SEC employed him from 1954 until the early 1980s when he retired; he loved this organisation and its people. He met wife Claire in 1944 – she told me at the funeral, which Bruce Campbell and Ausn Byrne also attended, that she enjoys reading *Sapper Summit*. The couple had two children, Louise and Eugene, and lived for most of their happy marriage in Brynmawr Road, Camberwell.

Bob made up for WW II by serving at Swan Street in 6 Construction Group RAE from 1958-71: 39 E&M Squadron 1954-58; 16 Construction Regiment 1958-60; and 203 Works Section from whence he retired, having earned an ED. He was greatly liked, a real

gentleman, unflappable and sound. Moreover he encouraged Louise's husband, Jos Verstraelen, a draftsman with SRWSC, to join 105 Construction Squadron. Bob also helped organise the 50th anniversary reunion of 16 Construction Regiment in October 2002.

Family activities and support (his stepmother lived with him and Claire during her last years, as did Claire's mother), local charity work, enthusiastic membership of the nearby Catholic parish of St Cecilia and the RSL (the same branch as Norman Dodgson), working in the garage on various hobbies, spending time with friends – these filled his retirement, not forgetting honey production from his backyard apiary. Farewell Bob Fitzwilliam: an amiable, decent and capable man, who led a long and happy life.

Rob Youl

VALE SPRLIONEL EGMONT de HOCHED-LARPENT

30 August 1917-13 August 2016

Army No: VX175208

As a member of 2/2nd Field Coy (6th DIV) Lionel was a WW2 veteran who saw active service against the Axis powers in the Italians, Germans and Japanese. Lionel enlisted in to the AIF in October 1939 and was discharged on 06th October 1945. Regrettably we lost Lionel just shy of his 99th birthday.

Lionel was a very proud Engineer and Sapper and as a member of the RAE Association (Vic) Inc. he was awarded Honorary Life Membership along with Living Legend status. We were so lucky to have Lionel join us at the 2015 Reunion.

Lionel was married for nearly 50 years to Audrey his childhood sweetheart who passed away in March 1992. They raised a family of 11 children (including Alan Larpent a WO2 at 7

FER.) in a modest home in Croydon. After returning from war service Lionel was employed as a Linesman from 1945 with the PMG (now Telstra) until his retirement.

A funeral service for Lionel was held in Croydon on Monday 22nd August 2016 with a good representation of family, friends and RSL members attending. During the service the President of the RAE Association (Colin Bowater) was invited to speak along with the President of the Croydon RSL who also conducted an RSL Service for Lionel.

What can you say about someone like Lionel who not only provided service to his country but contributed through his long working life? Lionel has seen the horrors of war, lived through a world-wide depression and seen so many marvellous events like man walking on the moon.

There is no doubt that Lionel like so many of his brothers in arms brought home some heavy baggage from his time in the conflict zones but he was very proud of his service to his country and looked forward to his ANZAC Parades. Even when his mobility became difficult for him he still made the effort to get into the city and joined in the parade even if it meant riding in a vehicle.

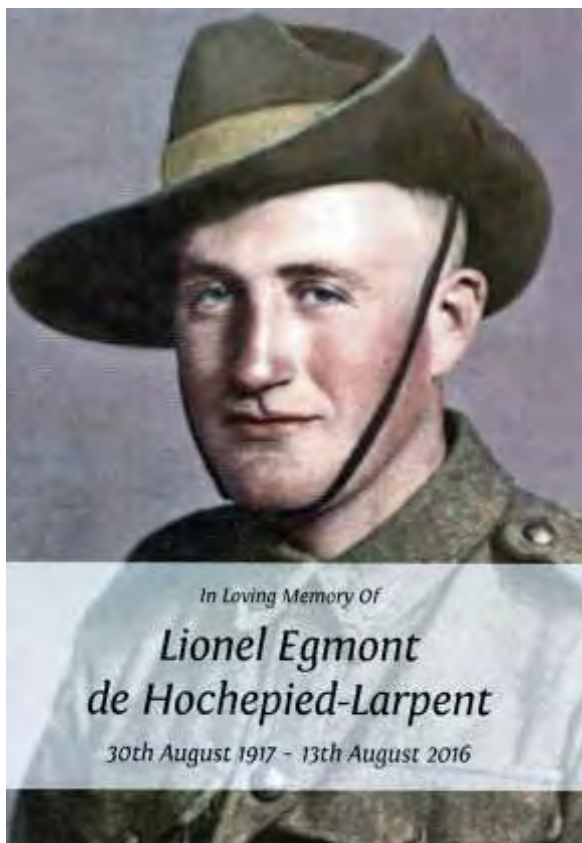
During his Eulogy the President of the RSL mentioned that Lionel was a worthy the privilege of leading the 2016 Croydon ANZAC Parade and was so taken with this he arrived 3 hours early.

Whilst it is obviously Lionel's family will suffer the most pain here with his passing we, as a Nation, must bear the loss of another important and valuable link to our history.

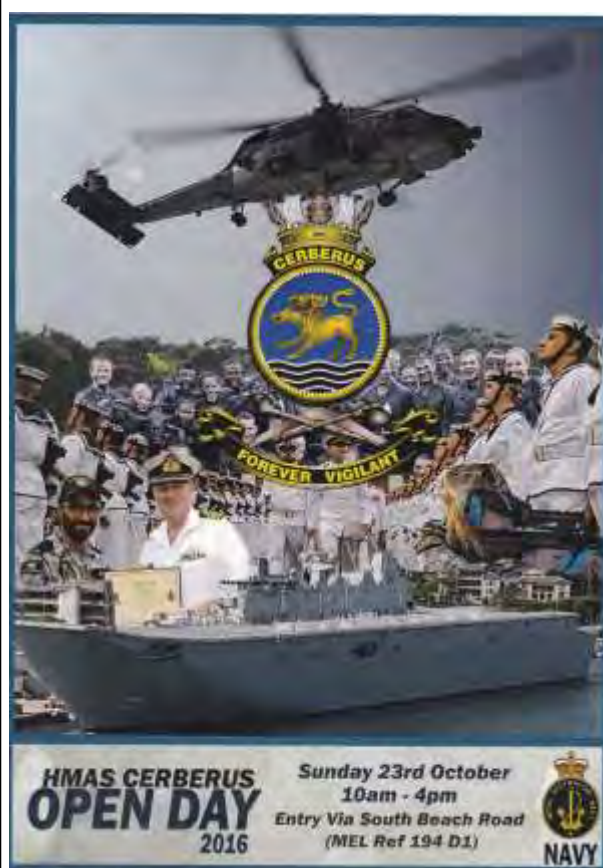
No matter what I write or say it is not going to be adequate to acknowledge the contribution of this very wonderful man so I will conclude with a personal memory and that is from ANZAC Day 2016 when Alan brought Lionel

down to the FUP for the Associatio to say hello and I had the opportunity of talking briefly to him – even at that point he was anxious to get to start position at the head of the march but this memory will remain with me.

“Lionel you have accomplished your tasks here to the highest possible standards of a sapper and have earned your place on any parade but for now ease springs and rest”



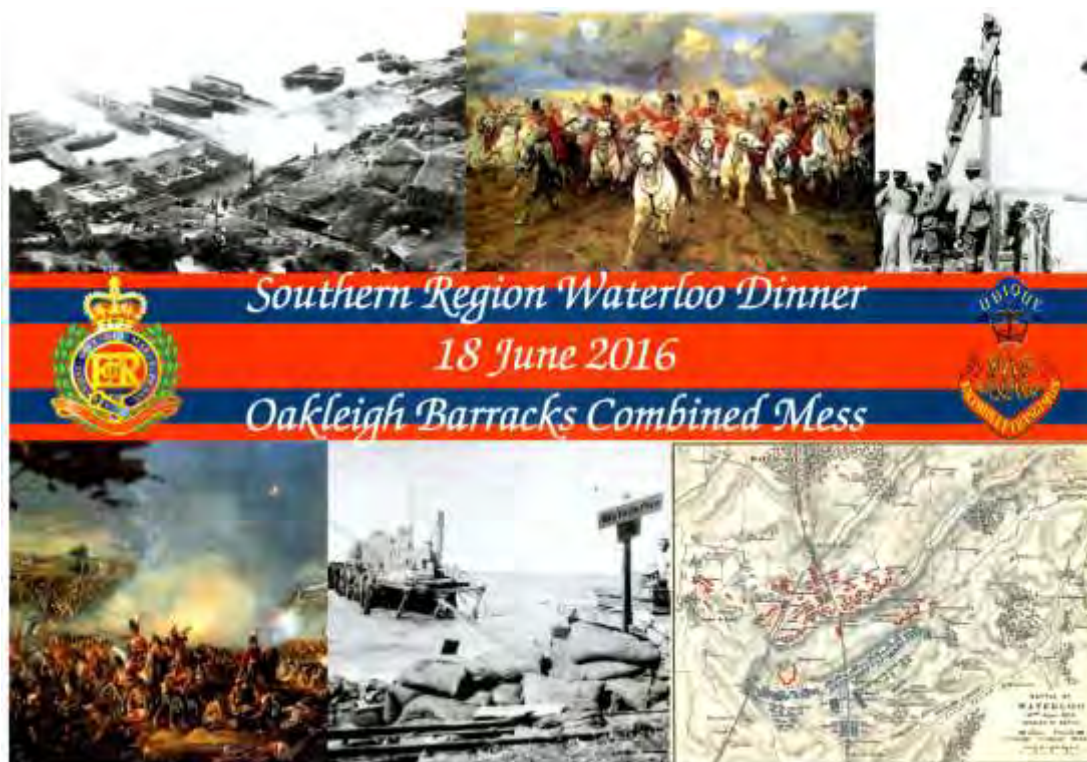
Below: Lionel de Hochepped-Larpent and Harry New at 2015 RAE Sapper Muster—both members of 2/2nd Field Company RAE.



Above:

Commanding Officer LTCOL Michelle McCormack and RSM WO1 Tony Luchterhand

22 Engineer Regiment RAE



SRCC RAE Waterloo Dinner
Pictorial contin ed p46-47



Brigadiers Hutchinson, McManus, Slater and Budd





Special thanks to RAE Associa on –Victoria Secretary, Jim Davis, for providing these photographs.



Psychological Trauma Recovery Service

Over more than seventy years, the Psychological Trauma Recovery Service – previously known as the Veterans Psychiatry Unit - has provided treatment for veterans and war widows living with trauma related mental health conditions. As our patient population group has changed over the past number of years, there has been significant work undertaken to improve collaboration with external providers and support services to enhance service provision and ensure a smooth and seamless transition to community based care. This has included collaborations with Soldier On, Legacy, DVA, the War Widows Association, RSLs and other agencies and support groups.

Of note, collaboration with the Australian Defence Force has been a significant focus in providing treatment and support to current-serving and recently discharged personnel, in addition to an enhanced relationship with the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service over the past year. Attendance at clinical meetings by ADF and VVCS representatives has enhanced the transition process back to- and out of our service and we look forward to working with these organisations going forward.

Rob Winther continues to advocate for the PTRS, assist our team to ensure the Coral Balmoral Building provides a safe and supportive environment for patients and families. The recent courtyard project with the addition of the Remembrance Poppies has brightened the space up considerably, and we eagerly await the delivery of toys for our children's courtyard.

In 2015/16, there have been over 200 admissions to the Inpatient Unit – largely veterans and current-serving ADF personnel, as well as some emergency services personnel. We have welcomed a new Nurse Unit Manager, as well as a new team of Associate Nurse Unit Managers following retirement and transition of many of our long-term team members.

We have recently introduced a 'Moving Towards Recovery: Consumer Resource and Workbook', a collaborative workbook to assist clients to focus on getting the most out of their admission and strategies to take home. Based on client feedback, we've introduced changes to the menu and will continue to work on this aspect of service provision.

The past 12 months has seen further positive changes within the PTRS and we look forward to working with our clients to continue to providing high quality treatment services in the coming years.

Suzy Redston Kristen Stanner

Clinical Director General Manager

About the RAE Association (Victoria) Inc

Vision Statement

The Royal Australian Engineers Association (Victoria) Incorporated will be the most relevant and recognized Sapper Association in Victoria with substantial membership and an enhanced profile and standing within the serving and retired sapper community.

Mission Statement

To promote the wellbeing and betterment of our members along with serving and retired sappers by the provision of a collegiate sapper association that values and promotes comradeship, esprit de corps, service identity and traditions.

Objectives

- Increase the Association's membership.
- Develop the capacity of the Association to communicate with the serving and retired sapper community through the enhancement of the Association's journal "Sapper Summit" and through an internet presence.
- Establish and enhance the relevance of the Association to all sappers - serving and retired.
- Undertake the research and recording of sapper history in Victoria.
- Provide sappers with an organized identity for participation in ANZAC Day and other commemorative events.
- Promote the achievements of 22 Engineer Regiment and those of its members.
- Disseminate information relating to sapper events and activities.
- Recognize and acknowledge excellence and achievement within the sapper community.
- Provide and promote awareness of welfare issues and resources relevant to service personnel.
- Promote mateship.
- Promote esprit de corps between all members of the sapper family.
- Maintain and promote the traditions and achievements of the Australian Defence Force in general and the Royal Australian Engineers in particular.
- Seek continual improvement in administrative practices to ensure members receive optimal value for the membership fees and donations.
- Liaise with and develop co-operative working arrangements with like organizations and associations.
- Formally develop succession planning for key appointments within the Association.
- Raise funds to support these objectives and other Association priorities that may arise from time to time.

For full details and news about the Association's projects and events, click on:

www.raevictoria.asn.au

Sapper Summit welcomes contributions from readers and friends. Your contributions can be sent to :

Editor Sapper Summit

PO Box 610 HEATHMONT VIC 3135

or email: sappersummit@gmail.com

Join Us—Royal Australian Engineers Association (Vic) Inc Membership Categories



1. Ordinary Members and Associate Members (members who support the Association but do not meet service membership criteria) who pay their subscriptions by 1st of January receive a receipt.
2. Concessional Life Membership. A member, who upon reaching the age of 65 years (prior to 1st of January of the membership year) may elect to make a one off payment equal to ten times the annual subscription for an Ordinary Member. Such members will be granted Concessional Life Membership with no further fees being payable. They will receive a letter from the Committee to confirm the granting of this category of membership.
3. Complementary Life Membership. A member who has made a significant contribution to the Association either by way of a substantial financial or memorabilia donation, may be awarded a Complementary Life Membership together with a letter from the committee confirming the granting of this membership.
4. Honorary Life Membership. Members over the age of 80 will be awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of their age status and contribution to both the community and the Corps. They will receive a letter from the committee confirming the granting of this membership.
5. Honorary Life Membership. Members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Association will be awarded Honorary Life Membership together with a framed certificate confirming the granting of this membership.

In categories 3 and 5, nominations are to be submitted to the committee with supporting justification and documentation. Nominations will be considered on a case by case basis.

Membership of the RAE Association Victoria costs \$15 per year with subscriptions due on 1 January each year. All members will receive an electronic copy of each issue Sapper Summit, the magazine of the Association. Hard copies will be available to members without email. Members can choose to receive coloured, hard copies in addition to their e-copies for an additional subscription fee. Contact the Secretary for details.

Applicants over the age of 65 may elect to pay ten times the annual fee to receive life membership. Fees are not required from applicants over the age of 80.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC
ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP



Jim Davis
Honorary Secretary
28 Ireland Avenue
WANTIRNA SOUTH, Vic 3152 E-mail: jdavis01@bigpond.net.au

SURNAME: _____

GIVEN NAMES: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: / / NAME OF PARTNER/WIFE/NOK: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (H): _____ (W): _____ (M): _____

E-MAIL: _____

REGIMENTAL/PMKEYS No. _____ RANK: _____

DATES OF ENLISTMENT AND DISCHARGE / / TO / /

AWARDS/DECORATIONS/AWARDS HELD: _____

DETAILS OF SERVICE AND UNITS (*any approximate dates would be useful*)

If more space is needed please use back of form.

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: _____

SIGNED: _____ / /

Wish to become a member of The Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria Incorporated (RAE Association (Vic) Inc. for the time being in force. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to:

1. Support the purposes of the Association.
2. Comply with the rules of the Association.

Note: Under the Application for Membership clause in the Association Rules, a person who wishes to join the Association must submit a signed written application to a committee member, and agree to the two items 1 & 2 listed above.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR 2015 HAS BEEN SET AT \$15.00 AND IS PAYABLE NOW WITH YOUR APPLICATION. PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY CHEQUE OR DIRECT CREDIT (see below). SHOULD YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION, REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT, IT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Electronic Banking: Payment can now be made by electronic transfer. Please use the details below and during the transfer please ensure that you show your full name and write in "subscription" in the reference box. **Show here that you sent subs/donation electronically on / / and amount \$**
Don't forget to post off the original application to the Hon Secretary-address is above.

BANK – Westpac Banking Corp: BSB 033181 - Account No 169032 Account Name RAE Association (Vic) Inc.

If undeliverable, return to
RAE Association (Vic) Inc
C/- 22 Engineer Regiment
56 Dublin Road
RINGWOOD VIC 3134

Sapper Summit

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