3

RAE CORPS NEWS LETTER

VICTORIA

EDITORAL December 1992

SAPPER SKILLS AND IMPROVISATION. DEPLOYMENT INTO NEW FIELDS.

Sapper skills required in the 1990's and beyond are essentially no different to those of past generations of sappers. Similarly, despite major technological and clever developments in time saving and labour saving stores and equipment, military success will depend as much as ever on sapper ingenuity; that special quality of the sapper to freely mix the use of standard skills and equipment with admirable improvisation to achieve speedy results in the face of impossibility.

But for sappers to fully develop their skills, and to acquire that cunning which develops with application, there must be motivation and opportunity: motivation through seeing and believing in the result being sought, and opportunity to practice skills and cunning in real time situations against real and demanding situations and deadlines.

Within Victoria, both motivation and opportunity for sappers have been strengthened in the past few years following emphasis on the defence of Northern Australia and the enabling restructuring of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

The 10th Field Squadron RAE, which has integral support elements, preserves the essential characteristics and capabilities of the former field companies and field park companies. 10 Fd Sqn is based at Ringwood, is part of 4 Fd Engr Regt based in Sydney, and supports HQ 4 Bde now located at "Grosvenor", 55 Queen's Road in South Melbourne. Their role is combat engineering to support units of 4 Bde in their designated area of operations in Northern Australia, and as such can expect more and varied training activities "up north" as individuals, small groups, and as a unit in coming years.

Continued over

Editorial Continued

Sappers within Logistic Support Force Engineers have a responsibility for infrastructure works in support of northern operations. Units within LSF Engrs have a capability for accommodation and road construction (HQ 22 Const Regt, 105 Const Sqn, 106 Const Sqn); provision of small town size power, water and sanitation services (39 E&M Sqn); provision of construction materials and services such as timber, crushed rock, deep bores for water, ready mix concrete, and heavy plant (all provided from the several varied elements of 91 Resources Sqn); general field engineering and specialist services such as bomb disposal, shallow diving and fire fighting (38 Fd Sqn); and engineering design and contract letting and supervision (203 Works Section). HQ LSF Engrs is located at Oakleigh Barracks, with units located at Oakleigh, Ringwood and Newborough. All these units will need to train for northern

operations and conditions, and are responsible for performing tasks similar to those of Army Troops, LofC Coys, Corps Park Coys etc., during WWII, and of US Corps of Engineers Reserve units and members who performed so creditably in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq at the time of the Gulf War in 1990/91.

These skills and fields of opportunity are not new to sappers generally, but the opportunity for Army Reserve sappers to practice these skills "on the ground" within a practical role provides a motivation and sense of achievement not available before.

In time LSF Engrs hope to become more closely integrated with the permanent Army, and provide ARES sappers of all ranks for service in such places as the Middle East, Africa, Pakistan, PNG, and various nations in the Pacific alongside sappers in the ARA.

Colonel R.A.Slater AM FIEAust AFAIM
Commander, LSF Engineers

CONTENTS

Australian Vietnam National Memorial 3
Barracks Officer's Mess 7
Beat to Retreat 9
Book Review - "The Sappers's War" 11
Bull Dog - Wau Rd 4
Coastal Defences - Joint Ctee 4
Corps New Letter Distribution 14
Dates to Remember 11
Editorial 1
Family Visit to Puckapanyal 9
Functions Held 12
Fort Gellibrand 10
Help Wanted 6
Howlatt Family 7
Memorial Service - 11/11/1992 5
New Sapper Associations 10
105 Const. Sqn 8
Postings 12
RAE Regional Sub-ctee 13
Sovereign's Banner Presentation 8
Viewing - "Beat the Retreat" 13
Visit to Papua - N.G. - 15 Fd Coy 14

DEDICATION OF AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM FORCES NATIONAL MEMORIAL.

Thousands of Vietnam Veterans and their families and friends gathered in Canberra on the first weekend in October for the dedication of the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial. Registration at the Corps meeting place began the weekend well with meetings of mates not seen for up to 26 years. The stories and memories quickly reestablished the esprit de corps between sappers and set the scene for a most memorable weekend.

The next day began with a Dawn Service --- a very moving ceremony held at the National War Memorial, with 10,000 in attendance. Among them were the next-of-kin of those killed in action. Later in the morning, units assembled and crowds began to gather in ANZAC Parade for the dedication of the Memorial and the march past of veterans. The memorial began as an idea born at the Welcome Home March in Sydney, 1987. Its individual design is the result of a competition and was much admired by all in Canberra as a fitting memorial to those "who served, suffered and died" during the Vietnam conflict.

While the waiting veterans watched the proceedings on a large video screen, the dedication of the memorial took place. The watching crowd was charged with emotion. The significance of the service to each was probably different, but one could not help but be aware of its effect on everyone present. Some wept openly, some stood silently, others tried to join in the singing of hymns but their voices broke as memories flooded in. It was, indeed a moving experience.

The dedication over, the March of Remembrance began. There was uplifting of the atmosphere as the men and women marched by. Cheering and clapping almost continuously for the duration of the march, the crowd acknowledged the veterans and those who died in, or because of, Vietnam. About 20,000 marched and between 20,000 and 30,000 lined the route of the march. A highlight was the low level fly past of three Iroquois helicopters.

After the march it was back to the reunions --- more old friends to meet and memories to share.

Canberra welcomed us --- it really was OUR weekend --- one which will long remain in our memories.

J. & C. Crosling

FOYER DISPLAY AT OAKLEIGH BARRACKS

THE BULLDOG-WAU ROAD: NEW GUINEA 1943-44: A GREAT RAE PROJECT

This display will include a selection of photographs by the Military History Section, LHQ, of aspects of the project, together with other material. A brochure about the road will be available to take away.

The Bulldog-Wau Road, little known at the time to the Australian public, or even in the Army, was an outstanding achievement by RAE units supported by other arms and services, and by Papuan and New Guinean native labourers and carriers. Totalling 109km through dense jungle and rain forest, and traversing the central divide to a maximum of 2896m (9500 feet), the road was built to join the south coast of Papua to Wau in New Guinea at a time when no other means of land communication existed to support the land campaign against the Japanese invasion of the north coast.

Men worked in conditions ranging from the exhausting heat and humidity of the swampy coastal plain of Papua to the bitter cold and constant rain and mist of the central mountains - conditions as harsh as any the RAE have ever suffered. Many sections, including solid granite, were tackled by sappers and natives with inadequate hand tools. Compressors were dismantled to be carried many kilometres along almost vertical rock faces to enable the pilot track to be blasted clear.

Eventually the road was completed to one-way 3-ton truck standard, but was never to be used for the job for which it was built - the war had moved on, thanks to unexpected build-up of air transport resources. Nevertheless, the Bulldog Road, completed by 1038 Australians and 2350 Papua-New Guineans, for the loss of only four lives, was one of the greatest construction feats of the RAE.

(Ref: 'The Royal Australian Engineers 1919 to 1945.' Vol. 3.
MAJGEN R.R. McNicoll, CBE,AM. Chapter 12.)

We are planning for the display to appear in January next, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the start of the project.

* * * *O* * * *

VICTROIAN COASTAL DEFENCES (Joint RAA - RAE Ctee)

The History and Heritage Ctee is conscious of the need to preserve the remains of the fixed Victorian Coastal Defences for military personal and the general public.

To this end a Joint Ctee has been formed with the Gunners with G.W.Carlile as Secretary, and has held its first meeting to formulate a course of action.

Until this is done the History and Heritage Ctee has agreed in principal to organise a day excursion on Saturday the 27th February to end at Queenscliff to attend the ancient Sunset ceremony of "Beat to Retreat".

Details to follow and numbers to Bill Carlile (03-8904868) by 30 January 1993.

Oakleigh Barracks Memorial Service - 11th November 1992.

Armistace Day was selected as the logical day for the enveiling service of the unit plaques on the Memorial Wall as a dedication to fallen comrades.

The Ceremony had to be held in the Main Hall as the heavens opened up and the rain was too heavy for the service to be held outside. Proceedings opened with Captain Loton leading the Barracks Component Staff Guard into the hall. R.S.M. Phillip Palatzi then welcomed all members, guests and the Lady Mayoress of Oakleigh.

Our principal guest Colonel E.J. WERTHEIM R.F.D. addressed the assembly after which the Hymn "Oh God Our Help In Ages Past" was sung and the "Lord's Prayer" was read by all.

Our Barracks Commander Col Bob Salter A.M. gave a wonderful Requiem, remembering all those who either gave their lives or suffered as P.O.W.'s. He concluded by saying he hoped our successors prove worthy of their sacrifices.

At this stage the unveiling of the Memorial Wall should have taken place outside, but because of the rain Colonel E.J. WERTHEIM R.F.D. carried out the unveiling inside and asked the chaplains from the three denominations, R.C., C.E. & P.D., to bid God's blessing on this memorial. By this time the rain had ceased and the wreaths were able to be laid by the various units outside.

The "Ode" was read by Joe Jopling, followed by We Will Remember Them and Lest We Forget. The final prayer was read by the Chaplains after which the "Last Post" was played. Two minutes silence was then observed before "Reveille" was played. The Ceremony ended by all singing our National Anthem. Captain Loton then marched the guard from the Hall.

The 130 guests then moved to view the plaques where the unveiling of the Memorial Wall was carried out again by Colonel E.J. WERTHEIM R.F.D.

Associations present were - 4TH, 10TH, 15TH, 2/1ST, 2/2ND, 2/8TH, 2/6TH, 2/9TH, 2/10TH FIELD COMPANIES - 53rd FIELD PARK COY, 2/4th FIELD SQUADRON, 3rd/34th FORTRESS COY AND 230 L.A.D., OLD SAPPERS ASSOCIATION INC, 14th FIELD PARK SQUADRON (B.C.O.F.), 3rd BATTALION PIONEERS (KOREA), EX R.A.E. VIETNAM ASSOCIATION, R.A.E.M.E. ASSOCIATION, ORDNANCE ASSOCIATION, HISTORIC/HERITAGE COMMITTEE.

The day ended with the Barracks supplying a wonderful spread of coffee, tea, sandwiches, biscuits and cakes while the Old Sappers Association supplied the heavier liquid.

It was a wonderful historic and moving Dedication and truly a day to be remembered.

The R.S.M. Phillip Palatzi was solely in charge of all the arrangements, and he most certainly should be congratulated for the smooth way that everything went to schedule.

J.JOPLING

105 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON

onst Sqn has just completed its 1992 Annual Camp with 22 Const Regt. reported that the camp, which included EXERCISE HARDCASTLE, the l Field Exercise (AFE), over the period 10-25 Oct 92, was a great ss. 50 members of 105 attended the AFE.

ajor activity conducted by 105 in camp was a construction trades s course, run by RAE personnel in conjuction with the Army College of Skills taught included basic concreting, carpentry, bricklaying and oing. The course was aimed at providing basic training to sappers who not already trade qualified, to enable them to undertake tasks of e types under the supervision of trade qualified personnel. tudents attended the course and then demonstrated their new skills by tructing two substantial toilet blocks at the Pucka Range and vating and concreting the footings for a new Lysaght hut at the getta Proving Ground.

Squadron also completed an introductory training course with the new SFIELD Line of Communications equipment bridge and carried out some nced plant operations training.

he personnel side there have been a number of recent promotions and nsfers of note, most important being:
Col Geoff Spencer, previously OC 105 and more recently CO 22 has n up a civilian posting with the World Bank in Washington, USA and l be overseas for some years.
aj Shane O'Keefe, OC 105 is departing from 105 after 20 years tinguished service with RAE in ARES. Shane joined 105 on completion of ional Service training, including service in Vietnam, and at various es filled all postings between Troop Sgt and OC. He also completed a iod as OC 91 Forestry. He has been a most valuable member of the adron and his service was recognised at a farewell barbecque and sentation during Camp.
thers transfers include
nsfers Out: Lt Paul Trunoff, 2IC of 105 transfered to 106.
Capt Marcus White, Const Off, transfered to 91.
Sgt Wayne Kennelly, promoted to WO11 and transfered to SSM 91 Resources Squadron.
ansfers In: Capt Russell Kelly has joined as 2IC.
also Capt Bruce Hope and Lt Dietmar Jurgensen.

the Regimental Parade in camp the following decorations etc were esented:

RFD	to Maj Shane O'Keefe
RFM	to LCpl Greg Douglas
Clasp to RFM	to WO11 Peter Bloor
Commission	to 2Lt Michael Leake.

* * * *O* * * *

HELP WANTED !!

The success of the History and Heritage Ctee means that it needs more hands, namely:-

BIBLIOPHILE - To create the basis of a heritage library for the ctee.

SKETCHER or CARTOONIST - To capture the passing parade.

CONDITIONS - 1. Salary - negotiated down.
2. Tax - no problem.
3. Career path - high trajectory.

REPLIES TO THE EDITOR

A SILVER LINING FOR THE HOWATT FAMILY

A devastating blow in 1989 to a Victorian sapper family has lead to a magnificent sequel of dedication, leadership and concern. Adam Howatt, five year old son of Eric ("Jock") and Joanne Howatt of Chirnside Park, was diagnosed as having a malignant tumour on his cheek in 1986. Jock, a Corporal in 10 Field Squadron with some 14 years service, was in camp at the Upper Thomson dam at the time, as he remembers so well. Ultimately Adam's condition was found to be a unique type of fibrosarchoma. He was in and out of the Royal Children Hospital for three years until his sad death in 1989. However, he managed to live normally in many ways. He was a happy and enthusiastic boy who ran around the depot with the other kids when families visited it for parades and other functions. The Howatt family, which also includes Mark (13), Neil (9) and Sarah (5), was one of the first to stay at Ronald McDonald House in Gatehouse Street, Parkville opposite the hospital. Before Adam died he shared a thought with his father: the fight goes on for others. And Jock Howatt has done exactly that.

Born in Scotland at Drumchapel, Glasgow, Jock is a postman who delivers mail in the Lilydale district by motorbike. He met Joanne when he was a judo teacher, Irish-born, she was one of his pupils. Since 1989 he has raised well over $30,000 through scores of raffles, dances, auctions, several fun runs (readily converted into a sponsored event, last years battle PT test brought $3,000) and participation in the Herald-Sun Good Friday Appeal (last years tally, employing a crew of 22, was $5,000). On 7 Field Engineer Regiment's camp in 1990 at Emerald on the Puffing Billy railway, sappers restoring a station extorted over $500 from passengers over several days. This is obviously big business, and the Howatt family has formed the Ward 6 East Fundraising Association. Your donations, which are tax-deductible, can be sent to Jock Howatt, care of 7 Engineer Support Regiment (with which 10 Field Squadron is co-located).

Next year, at Eric's initiation, all money collected on Good Friday by military personnel will be separately counted and attributed to the Army, and the system has agreed to help soldiers participate. Eric Howatt's most recent effort was a Saturday stint as cook at Ronald McDonald House. He and fellow members of 10 Field Squadron, Captain Damian Hannigan, Lance Corporal Mark Terry, Sappers Ian Larner and David Ryan, and Privates Maxine Boyd and Janine Edwards, spent the day in uniform preparing meals for the residents and some of the hospital patients. A full-scale Christmas dinner (somewhat early) is next on Eric's program for Ronald McDonald House. Any new ideas for fundraising you might have will be gratefully and analytically considered by Jock and his team. The same goes for offers of help and gifts of raffle prizes.

Rob Youl

* * * *0* * * *

OAKLEIGH BARRACKS OFFICERS MESS

The mess welcomes past and serving officers of the Corps to become members. It is intended that a more comprehensive mailing list will allow all to attend functions. If anyone is unintentionally ommitted from the list a note to the Mess Secretary (Major Carney Doyle) will put it right.

SOVEREIGNS BANNER PRESENTATION AND OPENING OF THE ENGINEER CENTRE AT MOOREBANK 1 JULY 1992

The approval for the RAE Corps to hold The Sovereigns Banner was given by Her Majesty the Queen in her capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps. The Banner itself is made of dark blue silk and has the Australian Coat of Arms on one side and the RAE Badge on the other. The Banner is not presented to any particular unit but to the Corps as a whole, it is a 'rallying point' for the Corps. The Banner will be kept in the RAE Officers Mess at Moorebank Centre, but will be available, on request, to all units of the Corps for parading on appropriate occasions (eg. The dedication of the Memorial Wall at Oakleigh Barracks).

The actual presentation of the Banner was very impressive and the date selected was te 90th Birthday of the Corps. Approximately 200 Engineer personnel representing every unit in the Crops took part, 9 members of 22 Construction Regiment were there. There were four guards of 50 troops and 4 APCs, plus the official party consisting of the Host - Brigadier I.G.C. Gilmore OBE, Chief of the Defence Force - Peter Gration AC,OBE, The Parliamentary Secretary of Defence - Mr L.R.S. Price MP and the Governor of New South Wales - His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair AC,AO, plus about 2000 guests, including 5 from the OSA. The band music was provided by the Band of the 2nd Military District.

The ceremony began with an impressive multi-coloured smoke barrage and the APCs and troops moved forward to hold ground and points. The official guests were then received on parade with due ceremony and introduced by Brigadier Gilmore. The inspection of the parade was carried out by Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair.

Then the guards formed a hollow square, the band marched in and the drums were piled. The Banner was uncased and layed over the piled drums. The Chaplains consecrated, blessed and dedicated the Banner. After the playing of the National Anthem and the General Salute, the guards marched past in slow and quick time. Then the Sovereigns Banner was paraded to the audience. The governor then officially opened the RAE Moorebank centre. The parade was addressed then the official guests departed and the Banner was marched off the parade ground. After the guards, the APCs and the troops holding ground departed, the Army provided afternoon tea to the visitors. Noticed among the guests were old friends COLs Rod McKinnon, Arthur Fittock, Bob Slater and John Wertheimer, and numerous other worthy acquaintances. The verdict of the visitors was that the parade work of the troops was crisp and precise and well in keeping with the proud tradition of the RAE Corps.

Bill Carlile
Old Sappers Association

* * * *0* * * *

From 2/24 Bn Association -
An item taken from a <u>German</u> magazine found in Libya!

"On the Tobruk front a large force of Italians attacked an Australian Enemy Cyclist causing him to dismount. After heavy and prolonged fighting they were able to puncture his tyres; the front wheel was destroyed while the loss of the rear wheel must also be considered probable. The handle-bars are in our hands, but possession of the frame is still being bitterly contested."

Family Visit to 22 Construction Regt - Puckapunyal.

A bus was hired from Peninsula Buslines with Trevor Wright as our Coach Master and at 8.45 a.m. our party departed from the Oakleigh Barracks. The weather wasn't very promising however it improved as we neared Puckapunyal.

Twenty nine (29) members and wives made the trip and I believe by the end of the day when we returned to the barracks many lasting friendships were made.

Our group was able to witness the Construction Regiment give a fine display of Parade Ground drill with Colonel Salter taking the Salute and he then made a moving address to the unit on Parade. After the Parade Ground display our group was given a beautiful Bar-b-que lunch and then enjoyed the hospitality of the Regiment's mess where they were able to partake of a few ambers, etc.

Some of our group ventured up to the tank museum and other spots of interest available.

The Regiment apologised for not being able to conduct a tour of their equipment as a result of the Goulburn River over flowing, however, I believe all the group had a wonderful day. On behalf of all who made the trip I would like to thank our Colonel Bob Eastick and Colonel Ross from 22 Construction Regiment for arranging and making the day so successful. Next year further outings will be arranged.

J.Jopling

* * * *0* * * *

CEREMONIAL 'BEAT TO RETREAT'

For hundreds of years the drum was used to convey signals on the battle-field and in camps and the custom developed of having a drummer 'Beat to Retreat' each evening as dusk approached as a signal to soldiers that they were to retreat behind their defences for the night and that the Watch was to be set.

The Duke of Cumberland, possibly at the battle of Culloden Moor in 1746, decreed that, once the Watch had been set, "Any soldiers who take their arms out of the bell tents after Retreat to suffer death" and "No drummer to practice after the Retreat".

By 1779, Retreat as a nightly routine had become quite a ceremony but still retained its military purpose, as it was laid down in General Regulations and Orders for the conduct of HM Armed Forces in 'Great Britain' that Retreat should be 'Beat at Sunset'. This Regulation is repeated in Queens (Kings) Regulations to the present day.

The firing of volleys as part of the ceremony originated from the setting of the Night Watch. Their old powder was fired off and their weapons reloaded with fresh powder before standing their Watch. (It is also possible that at about this time the dead were buried and the 'Watch' on firing the volleys put flight to the spirits of departed soldiers.)

Over the years, bugle calls and bands have been added to the drums to create a more impressive and entertaining ceremony which is now often concluded with a hymn such as, 'The day Thou gavest Lord, is ended', followed by a bugle call during the lowering of the flag and then the National Anthem and the March Off by the Guard.

HOBSON'S BAY (PORT PHILLIP) FORTIFICATION

Fort Gellibrand

Today Fort Gellibrand only remains, gun emplacements empty, buildings occupied by No. 2 Commando Coy. In earlier years it was the home of 31 Port Squadron RAE, ARA units, ARes units and the CMF pre WWII coastal gunners.

In 1860 Captain Peter Scretchley RE (1835-1885) proposed the strengthening of these fortifications - eleven batteries stretching from Port Ormond to Port Gellibrand (Williamstown) and incorporating the heavy new Armstrong RML guns with the current SBML guns.

Gun emplacements have been considerably altered on several occasions to accommodate emerging generations of improved guns and their mountings, this involving mass concrete construction.

Scretchley and his RE detachment of sappers played a conspicuous part in shaping such defences.

Although finally decommissioned in 1922, Fort Gellibrand was relegated to a training battery for coast gunners. Some two or three decades earlier.

NOTE:-
SBML - Smooth Bore Muzzle Loading Gun.
RML - Rifled Muzzled Loading Gun.

Bill Goodall

* * * *0* * * *

NEW EX-SAPPER ASSOCIATIONS

Two new ex-sapper associations have been formed since the last News Letter and others are likely to follow.

Bruce Campbell 568-0320 reports ten ex-members of 105 Const. Sqn met at Puckapanyal during the 22 Constr. Regt.'s annual camp and decidedto form an association with the initial expectation of meeting once a year, probably at the annual camp. The steering committee is Maurie Squirrel (Sec), Bruce Campbell and Norm Dodgson. This committee would be delighted to hear from any ex-members of the 105 Const. Sqn who would be interested in joining the association.

Les Malseed tells us that ex-members of 91 Forestry Sqn also met at Puckapanyal and decided to form 91 Forestry Association. The response was enthusiastic and the association already has 34 members, including several serving members who service will come to an end in the near future. A committee of nine has been formed and it is anticipated that the association will also meet at the annual camp, although other actiivities are being considered. Ex-members of 91 Forestry Sqn are invited to contact Les Malseed 807 1857 or Maj Bull, the O.C. of the 91 Forestry Sqn at the Ringwood Depot.

J. Riley.

DATES TO REMEMBER

(Remember to confirm details)

OAKLEIGH BARRACKS OFFICERS MESS

Sat. 20 Feb. - Combined Regimental Dinner

Sun 21 Mar. - Family Outing at Portsea.

OLD SAPPERS ASSOCIATION

Sun 10 Jan - Members Open day

Sun 17 Jan - Pilgrimage to Shrine at 1515 hrs.

Fri 26 Feb. - Fortress Afternoon.

Sun 28 Mar. - BBQ at Queenscliff.

GENERAL

Sat 27 Feb. - Queenscliff excursion including "Beating the Retreat"

Sun 25 Apr - Dawn Service at Oakleigh Barracks.

CORPS FUNCTION

Sat 19 Jun - Waterloo Dinner.

BOOK REVIEW

THE SAPPER'S WAR by KEN WARD - HARVEY.
$40 - $7 post and pack.

After seven years work, Ken Ward - Harvey of the 2/7th Fd Coy and his collaborators have produced the Final Edition of "The Sappers War" and Paul Moodie of the 2/13th Fd Coy launched it recently at the Canberra War Memorial.

It is the Sapper story told as they saw it in their diaries and reminiscences - a lenght of 223 pages, 19 maps, 114 photos and 15 plans.

Ken has put the 9 Divisional Engineers on parade - 3500 of them,- drawn up in alphabetical columns, without rank, for the reader's inspection. As a member of 2/3rd Fd Coy, I moved down the assembled ranks with the names evoking their memories, now grown dim. Memories of their deeds came flooding back - Frank Bingham, able to catch a swallow in flight, "Peggy" O'Neil, nursing a 3 ton Army truck through desert sands, Joe Grogan, mustachioed with his Italian cheroots, and others. I shall never see their like again.

I can not ask you, Ken, to dismiss them but leave them like a Terracotta Army bearing silent witness to their deeds which are inscribed in the preceding pages.

The nominal rolls, alone, are worth the money.

R.Eastick.

* * * *0* * * *

In a little country pub the sergeant of police saw the local drunk down on his hands and knees, searching around the floor. The copper put his hand on the drunk's shoulder and said,"Sorry, Charlie, but I'll have to run you in."
"Have a heart, Sarge!" wailed Charlie. "I've done me roll".
The policeman felt sorry. "Let me help you," he said, and got down on the floor to search.
After a time he looked at Charlie doubtfully. "I don't believe you ever had a roll," he said.
"Honestly I did, Charlie replied. "Here's the saveloy to prove it!".

POSTINGS

RAE RESERVE

Col. R.A.Slater (Promoted to Brig)	3 TRG GP	Lt Col H.Ellis (Promoted to Col)	HQ LSF ENGRS
Lt Col G. Burnham	203 WKS SECT	Lt Col W. Ross	22 Const Regt
Maj. L. Bull	91 Res. Sqn		

ARA

POSTING	TO	REPLACEMENT	FROM
	Pakistan	Maj D. Hughes	1RTB
Maj D. Taylor	10 Fd Sqn	None	
Capt. K.Earle	S.M.E.	Capt K. Earle	22 Ct. Rt
Capt D. Hannigan	2 CER	WO1 T. Smith	3 CER
WO1 P.Palazzi	3 ADFRU	None	
WO1 K. Hawkins	10 Fd Sqn	WO1 Bob Lucas	7 ESR
WO@ G. Jones	3 CER	Cpl G. Sousee	SCMA
Cpl B.Allan	22 ConstRegt	WO2 P. Ryan	3 Fd Sqn
WO1 B. Lucas	SME	WO2 J. Brown	SME
WO2 B. Kudyba			

RAE RESERVE POSTINGS

	TO		TO
WO1 T.H.Boltong	7 ESR	WO2 B.S.Cook	38 Fd Sqn
WO2 R. L. Haines	203 Wks Sect	WO2 R. G. Hedger	203 Wks Sect
WO2 R.A.Burn	22 Const Regt	WO2 D. G. Rundell	APA - M
SSGT J. P. Simmons	91 Res Sqn	SSGT P. M. Webster	91 Res. Sqn
SSGT S. S. Rushbrook	10 Fd Sqn	SSGT A. D. Larpent	MONUR
SSGT C. M. Harper	3 TRG GP	SSGT R.W.Skinner	HQ LSF Engrs.
SSGT G. Berk	10 Fd Sqn	Sgt H. N. Monroe	106 Const Sqn
Sgt K. J. Brown	HQ. 7ESR	Sgt. N.F. Johnson	HQ. LSF Engrs
SGT. G.Hanley	HQ. 7ESR	SGT. A.C.Jasper	38 Fd. Sqn
SGT. R. E. Lowe	91 Res. Sqn	Sgt. G. N. Christie	106 Const Sqn
Sgt R. J. Fryer	3 Trg Gp	Sgt C. R. Haggett	M U R
Sgt. S. R. Meadows	203 Wks Sect	Sgt. J. N. Spencer	91 Res Sqn
Sgt. W. Fleming	HQ. 7ESR		

* * * *0* * * *

FUNCTIONS HELD

Oakleigh Barracks Officers Mess

5th December - The Annual General Meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. However subsequent discussions helped the operation of the mess and the bar traded well.

6th December - The "At Home" with about 60 present was a very pleasant evening with new friendships made and old ones strengthened.

OR'S Club.

5th December - The EXTRAVAGANZA, with ballons and streamers attracted over 100 revellers to end the year.

VIEWING OF THE "BEATING THE RETREAT"

at Queenscliff Sat. 27th February 1993

The Joint Coastal Defences Sub-committee is organising an excursion to Queenscliff in the p.m. Saturday 27th February 1993 to include the ceremony of "Beating the Retreat".

The itinerary will include points of interest prior to the ceremony which takes place at sunset.

A bus may be provided (numbers permitting) cost approx $10 - $12. A picnic hamper is suggested.

Advise Bill Carlile 890 4868 of numbers by 30th January. Fuller details to follow.

* * * *0* * * *

RAE CORPS COMMITTEE

Victorian Regional Subcommittee

This subcommittee met on the 2nd December at Oakleigh Barracks and welcomed the new Corps Commandant for Victoria: Col E.Wertheimer.

The matters dealt with were:- the Waterloo Dinner set for 19th June 1993 with details to follow, and the financing of current and future projects. These projects are

i. enlarging the distribution of the Corps News Letter
ii. Launching "The Swan Street Sapper" by Anzac Day 1993.
iii. the photographic display of the Bulldog - Wau Road at the Oakleigh Barracks.
iv. placing a Memorial Plaque at the Swan Street Depot Site.

* * * *0* * * *

Following courtesy RAE 9 Div Newsletter:

An American, an Englishman and an Australian were sharing some drinks in the pub and skiting about the war when the conversation got around to noise.

"Loudest noise I ever heard," said the Yank, "was when we dropped the A-Bomb. Like all the thunder in the world going off at once."

"Cor, blimey!" the Pommie piped up, you should have been in London during the Blitz, mate! Bleeding bombs going off non-stop day and night. Now there was a loud noise for you."

"I don't know about that," said the Aussie, "but when I was on leave, I took up with this ripper blonde, and she took me back to her place. Well, we'd just got into bed when we heard the front door open. 'It's me old man!' she gasps,'Out of the window, quick!' So I grabbed me shirt in one hand and me strides in the other, and I dived for the window. It was one of those sash type jobs, and wouldn't you know it, I was half way through it when the bloody thing fell down on top of me."

"And there I was starkers, half in and half out of the window, caught like a rat in a trap. I reckon the loudest noise I ever heard was her old man opening his pocket knife!"

15th Field Company RAE - Visit to Papua-New Guinea

During WW 11, the 15th Fd Coy RAE went to PNG as support groups building roads and bridges and maintaining airfields.

On 24th June 1992, members of the 15th Fd Coy Association gathered in Brisbane to board the MV 'Mikhail Sholokhov' and sail to a number of ports in Papua-New Guinea. During the voyage, historian Ron Austin gave a series of talks on the Pacific Campaign to large and appreciative audiences.

In PNG a number of war cemeteries were visited and short ceremonies were performed and a wreath and poppies were laid.

Rabaul - Bitapaka War Cemetery visited. Also journeyed to Karavia Bay to view some of the tunnels built to hold stores from Japanese submarines.

Madang - visit to the Coastwatchers Memorial Lighthouse.

Lae - Lae War Cemetery visited and Doug Buxton's grave located.

Milne Bay - visit to memorials for Cpl J A French V.C. and Air Cdre Turnbull.

Port Moresby - Bomana War Cemetery visited and graves of 15th Fd Coy sappers located and honoured.
Also travelled to the start of the Kokoda Track and walked for a short distance up the Track.

During the journey members were able to participate in the many and varied activities aboard ship, appreciate the spectacular beauty of the various harbours and the tropical vegetation of PNG and to enjoy the hospitality provided by several villages while on sightseeing tours from the various harbours.

After being farewelled by the Port Moresby Police Drum Band the ship returned via Cairns to Brisbane on 11th July.

* * * *0* * * *

CORPS NEWS LETTER DISTRIBUTION

The Corps News letter will be distributed, in bulk, without charge, to Units and Sapper Associations.

It will be mailed direct to you, upon your request on the Army Form (ME 2) below.

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _CUT N' RUSH _ _ _ _ _ _ _

.....

.....

.....

The Editor
Corps News Letter - Victoria
c/o Oakleigh Barracks
North Road
OAKLEIGH 3167

Please mail to me 2/4 issues of the Corps News Letter - Victoria to the above address. Mu cheque for $1.50/$3 to The Treasurer Corps Fund is enclosed.

Name and Rank..... Signed .....

* * * *0* * * *

This News Letter is Edited by The Historical & Heritage Cttee. at the Oakleigh Barracks.