"SAPPER SUMMIT"

RAE CORPS NEWSLETTER

VICTORIAN ENGINEERS

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Golf Day

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See page 2 for details

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EDITORIAL

I suspect that most sappers would include at least one, maybe even several, stints of bridge construction amongst their career highlights.

Looking through the pages of *Swan Street Sappers* reinforces this, with numerous bridges being described and sometimes depicted: pontoon bridges across the Yarra near the depot and for Fox FM on Albert Park Lake; foot bridges around Ringwood - including for scout jamborees; Hutchinsons Hop at Pucka and others in the Seymour-Tallarook area; numerous Bailey bridges around Victoria for the then CRB and the SRWSC - including a beauty at Framlingham; the reconstruction of Bruntons Bridge near Walhalla; the 1982 efforts to build the Snake Island jetty and the Bulga Park suspension bridge; 7 FER's walkway and foot bridges at Bairnsdale; and well beyond Victoria to northern training areas and perhaps the ultimate job - 22 Construction Regiment's bridges at Wewak, Papua New Guinea in 1963.

We're still building bridges - witness the account in the last *Sapper Summit* of the fine timber footbridge at Warburton over the Yarra, started by 4 Combat Engineer Regiment in Lieutenant Colonel Peter Wakefield's time and finished by the regiment under Lieutenant Colonel Don Hughes with help from brother and sister sappers of 22 Construction Regiment.

The Reserve's huge commitments to the Olympic Games and Timor got in the way, so this bridging project took more than two years to complete, but it's good enough for our Hall of Fame, as you'd expect.

Talking of Timor, one of my contacts still serving says that now is the best time ever to be in the Reserve. Timor has bridged the gap between the

regular and reserve elements of the Australian Army. The two work together as never before.

Experience in Timor has demonstrated that a field force can't be deployed without full reserve support, and radical moves, including pay support, are under way to ensure that reservists can sustain their military careers without jeopardising their civil jobs.

Moreover, reserve units are getting new personal gear, equipment, plant and facilities.

As my friend says: "It's a very positive time!"

Another bridge I'd like to see extended is that between Australia and Indonesia.

My reasons are personal; the first trip overseas I ever did with my wife was to Sumatra and Java in 1985, commencing the very weekend Indonesia celebrated four decades of independence. I loved the volcanic landscapes, the heat, the complex agriculture, the food and the beer, the friendly people, the diverse cultures, the Dutch connections, the chaotic but super-efficient (sounds stupid, I know) transport systems - trishaws to trains, little bemos to big buses.

I thought Jakarta would be awful - twelve million people it was then - but I loved it. I got great pleasure from learning and using rudimentary Bahasa Indonesia. Borobadur, the great temple in central Java, thrilled me. I revelled in the knockabout frontier atmosphere. It was all so easy - we even hitched a ride on two goods trains and on a coastal freighter carrying a load of oil.

I talked to a few soldiers and policemen, as there were uniforms everywhere.

The Indonesian Army was fighting in East Timor, of course. I'll never forget visiting the simple museum of the West Sumatra Regiment in Bukittingi and seeing black and white family photos taken from the bodies of dead Freitlin guerrillas. It was a shock to see how Melanesian were the people in the photos - for I was expecting Malay faces. Not long after I encountered a big raw-boned young man wearing a t-shirt that announced to all that his battalion had just done a tour of *Timur Timur* - East Timor.

Indonesia's future? Who knows at present? But my brief trip left me with some admiration for the way modern Indonesia had been welded together in its first forty years: one language, good telecommunications, a vibrant press, a gallant airline and shipping service, interesting television. I haven't been back, but I'd love to, to see if the goodwill that was so evident towards Australians in 1985 is there today.

Rob Youl

COMING EVENTS

Excursion ACL 13.9.01

The next excursion organised by the Historical & Heritage Commitee will be to Automotive Components Ltd to see the manufacture of some engine components.

We expect to see the casting of pistons and rings and engine testing

Detailed arrangements are:

Location 87 Mitchell Street
Maidstone
Melway Map 87 J 11

Assembly Car Park 1300 –1315 hrs

Introduction, Host Mr. Richard Pink

Tour Commences 1330hrs sharp

Places are limited. Those interested contact Bill Atkins 59961013 or Reg Morrell 9562 9532.

The outing is conducted with RAA Assen.

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GOLF DAY 11 October 2001 EMERGENCY ACTION NEEDED -- PLEASE RE-ENTER.

Unfortunately a recent burglary at Capt Bill McAuley's home resulted in the theft and loss of all records and cheques pertaining to the forthcoming Evans-Zoller Golf Day for 2001. As there are no duplicate records of those who applied to play, those who wish to do so are asked to re-apply directly to Bill without delay. Fortunately it is known that all the stolen cheques were marked "Not Negotiable" though it may be wise to cancel any cheques which may have been sent.

As some additional player places have been allocated this year, it is hoped that it will be possible to accept any applications received within the next few weeks. Places are available for serving and retired ARA and ARes RAE Officers. Players may also be accompanied by a caddy (same qualifications). who will of course be responsible for payment of own food and drinks.

Arrangements for the day are:

Date: Thursday 11 October 2001.

Venue: The Royal Melbourne Golf Club, Cheltenham Road, Black Rock.

Timings: Arrive NTL 1130 for lunch.
Arrive NLT 1400 for golf only.

Luncheon served: 1200-1400 hours

Tee off: 1430 sharp

Regroup: approx1800-1830 in Members Bar area.

Competition: Four Ball Best Ball Par
Players may enter singly or in pairs. Only one entry form needed for pairs

Refreshments: A la carte or light luncheon available, together with drinks at individual expense.

Green Fees: $60 each, by cheque payable to "The Royal Melbourne Golf Club" ("Not Negotiable" please) must be forwared with entry form. Members of RMGC exempt from

fees. Entry form is at the back of this issue.
Dress: Jacket and tie in Clubhouse. Dress for play restricted to smart casual without advertising logos.
Further Info: Capt W J W McAuley, POB 86, Moama, NSW, 2731.
Tels: (03) 5489 3218: (0428) 486 018
Entry Forms: (see page 10) including replacements for any sent before10 August 2001, must reach Capt McAuley by 20/9/2001.

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22 CONST REGIMENT GET-TOGETHER at BENDIGO 11-13 November 2001.

The Annual Get Together for serving and retired members of 22 Regt is to be held this year at Bendigo and, as usual, is expected to provide a wonderful opportunity for members and their families and friends to renew old acquantainces, make new friends and relive some of those wonderfully enjoyable times they have experienced in 22 Regt.

Details of the events are:

Host: Barry Carboon, ssisted by his wife June,
Secretary: Peter Bloor (Who shas done this job for many years)
General Details: Friday Night 9/11/01.

Casual Evening at RSL Club Complex at 73-75 Havilah Road, Bendigo North, with meals "from the board".

Saturday Night 10/11/01

Semi-Formal Dinner in the Function Room at the RSL Complex.

Pre-Dinner Drinks 5.45-6.30 pm. Sit-Down 6.30pm to set 3 course menu, including choice of 2 mains and 2 sweets.

COST $21.00 per person all inclusive food only. Pay for drinks as you go.

Sunday 11/11/01 Remembrance Day Service, 1100 hrs at the Bendigo Shrine in Pall Mall, followed by BBQ Brunch at Lake Weeroona, Napier Street (Echuca Road), commencing at approx 1130 hrs., cost to be determined on the day.

There are many tourist attractions in and around Bendigo and plenty of motels etc for accommodation so these details will be left to individuals but organisers need to know who is attending the Service on 11/11/01 and who is staying for lunch.

Attendance Returns (see page 11) should be sent to: Peter Bloor at PO Box 101 Numurkah 3636 and further information can be obtained by phoning Peter on Tel: 5862 1138.

Further info re accomodation and tourist attractions can be obtained directly from the Bendigo Tourist Centre or RACV.

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SIR CLIVE STEELE LECTURE 23 November 2001.

Readers are reminded again of the Sir Clive Steele Lecture scheduled for Friday 23 Nov, 2001.

Details are:

Subject: Searching for the Silver Bullet: Developing a Landmine Clearance Strategy.

Lecturer: Lt Col W Van Ree, CO 22 Const Regt.

Location: Engineer Depot. Dublin Road, East Ringwood.

Timings:Bar opens for refreshments, 18.30 hrs. Lecture commences 19.30 hrs.

Lt Col Bill van Ree commanded the Aust Army's mine clearance program in Afganistan in 1989 and has also served in Mozambique, Somalia, Laos and the former Yugoslavia.

After leaving the ARA in 1993 he became head of the UN civilian program in Afganistan and now acts as a consultant to various aid agencies. He is also now continuing his military career in ARes as CO 22 Regt.

To assist in planning catering arrangements it would be appreciated if persons other than serving members of 22 Regt and 4 CER intending to attend this lecture could notify Maj Les Malseed on Tel: 03 5977 9968 by 20/11/01.

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WATERLOO DINNER, 2002

The Corps of Australian Engineers was officially formed on 1 July 1902 following Australian Federation in 1901.

Previous to Federation the major Australian States each had their own Engineer units, as part of their own Colonial Defence Forces. Following Federation, all units were brought under the command of the newly formed Australian Army and the official formation date of the Engineer Corps was 1 July 1902. This resulted from decisions made by the new Australian Federal Parliament sitting in Melbourne.

The RAE Corps Committee (Southern Region) is planning a very special Waterloo Dinner in Melbourne in July 2002 to celebrate this historic event. More details will be published in later issues of the "Sapper Summit".

RECENT EVENTS

THE BLUE TONGUES RE-UNION 25 to 27/5/01

Once again, our apologies for the late issue of SS 34 which was posted too late to let readers know of this event in advance.

We understand, however, that the "Blue Tongues" own communications system worked well and that a number of old faithful members of 22 Regt attended this friendly activity on the river bank at Mitchellston and that all had a wonderful time. Its great to see a few of our retired members of 105 continuing to organise these very successful low key events - please give us more notice next time, Geoff, Foxie and Bill, and we'll make sure we give you better publicity.

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WATERLOO DINNER, JUNE 2001

The Waterloo Dinner, held at the Maygar Barracks on 16 June 2001 was successful - our apologies for omitting some of the information from the last "Sapper Summit".

There was a good attendence from serving officers, including a good contingent from Pucka though unfortunately the number of retirees was down on previous years. We'll have to make up for this in 2002.

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RESERVE FORCES DAY MARCH1 JULY 2001.

The Reserve Forces Day March held on 1 July was very successful.

We have no report on the total number of marchers except that it was many more than 3,000. The main RAE contingent included approx. 150 serving and retired members.

Our contingent was led by approx 50 serving members of 22 Regt, marching in uniform, and followed by approx 100, mostly retirees, in civvies marching behind the OSA banner.

These included a wide cross section of personnel with ages ranging between the 30s and the 70s, as well as retired members of all existing and recently disbanded Victorian RAE units. It was great to see a good number of representatives from 16 Regt, some from far distant places; 22 Regt reps from many parts of the State; many from the old Ringwood units, ex 91 Forestry and many others. Attendance from 4 CER was affected by unit activities. A pleasing feature was the fact that we had an excellent band immediately ahead of the RAE contingent and even the old timers were able to march the length of Swanston Street without a change of step.

The march, which was led by Col E J Wertheimer AM RFD, commenced at the corner of Lonsdale and Swanston Street and continued to the Shrine, where the Commemorative Service was conducted.

The salute was taken at the Melbourne Town Hall by Maj Gen G H Garde AM RFD QC ACRES, accompanied by the Hon Peter Reith, MP, Minister for Defence.

The Service was introduced by Col Wertheimer and conducted by Chaplain G Hoskin.

The address, given by The Hon Peter Reith, included extensive reference to the Government's proposed future assistance to A Res, including the offer of financial incentives to employers to encourage their employees to join the Army Reserve. These incentives would include financial subsidies to the employer to cover absences by their employees attending military training - a most welcome innovation.

At the conclusion of the service a number of the RAE personnel retired to the nearby Botanical Hotel to recuperate.

The contingent from 22 Const. Regt. was appreciated and of course any member of either regiment would have been most welcome to join the ranks and the festivities afterwards.

NEWS ITEMS

AUSTRALIAN HONOURS LIST Maj (RL) T.M. Glazebrook OAM ED

Congratulations are due to Maj Tom Glazebrook on his recent award of the Order of Australia Medal. Tom Glazebrook joined 22 Regt as a recruit in 1950, attending the Regiment's first camp. He commenced the necessary training for appointment to commissioned rank shortly after and, on gaining his commission, he was the first

member of 22 Regt without war service to be commissioned as a Lieutenant.

Lt Tom glazebrook conitiued officer training and service until he was promoted Major and he was appointed OC 104 Const Sqn in 1968. He retained that post until his retirement in early 1975 when 104 was disbanded. Throughout the period of Maj Glazebrook's command 104 served as the recruit squadron for 22 Regt and all recruits joining the Regt served their first camp under Tom's command. Maj Glazebrook was also PMC of the 22 Regt Officers Mess during the later years of his service. He was the first war Supplementary Reserve officer in Victoria, withou service, to be awarded the Efficiency Decoration.

The citation for his award of the OAM states that it is awarded "For services to the of H community, particularly through Bendigo Chapter Habitat for Humanity, and to the Engineering Profession.

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NATIONAL SERVICE MEDALS

It has recently been announced that the Federal Government is to issue a medal to all men who served as conscripts under the National Service Scheme between 1951 and 1972. To receive the medal, men will be required to complete the necessary application forms which will become available in October, 2001. Ex National Servicemen should contact the National Servicemen's Association at NSAA Victoria, 2 Grassmere Court, Hallam, 3803, for the appropriate application forms. It is hoped the medals will be issued in time for wearing on Anzac Day 2002. Ex-National Servicemen are invited to contact their local Associations for further info.

The Tragedy of Sandakan

Maj. Ted Renton

Sandakan is a sea port in the Malysian state of Sabah formerly British North Borneo. During WWll it was the site of a JapanesePOW camp housing British and Australian POW's from Singapore. They were sent to build an aerodrome but the project was abandoned because of continuous bombing by the Allies.

The fate of 1781 Australians and 641 British sent there is one of the darkest stories of WWll. Peter Furkin's book "From Hell to Eternity" published in 1975 tells the story of these men. The cover note states he shear brutality, degradation andtragedyhas seldom been equalled in the history of war. The Australian Government's thirty year embargo on evidence given at the War Crimes Trials (completed in 1947) prevented a wider and earlier prominence of the events". Only six men, all Australians,survived by escaping. Their evidence at the trials was invaluable in obtaining convictions.

The Japanese had adopted a policy of destroying all evidence of their shameful conduct during their occupation. This included both prisoners and the civilian population. The Australian Government attitude at the time of the trials was that the facts were too terrible to tell relatives.

In 1985 Don Walls, a former 7th Division POW in Singapore published his book "Singapore and Beyond" which was the story of the 2/20 battalion AIF took the brunt of the Japanese assault on Singapore in 1942 and became soldiers in captivity dispersed throughout occupied Asia as slaves of the Japanese.

It is enlightening to look at the figures of POWs held by the German and Japan.

	Captured	Died	POW Survived
Germany	7,110	240 (3%)	6870
Japan	21,650	7780 (36%)	13870
	28,760	8020	21650

A break down of the deaths with the Japanese POWs show that the deaths on the Burma Thailand railway (2336) exceeded that at Sandakan (1781) but the death rate was 25% - 35% compared to 99.7% at Sandakan. Ambon had a high rate of 66% (718) while the sinking of the s.s. Montevideo Maru in July 1942 on her way from New Britain to Japan resulted in all 1255 being lost at sea.

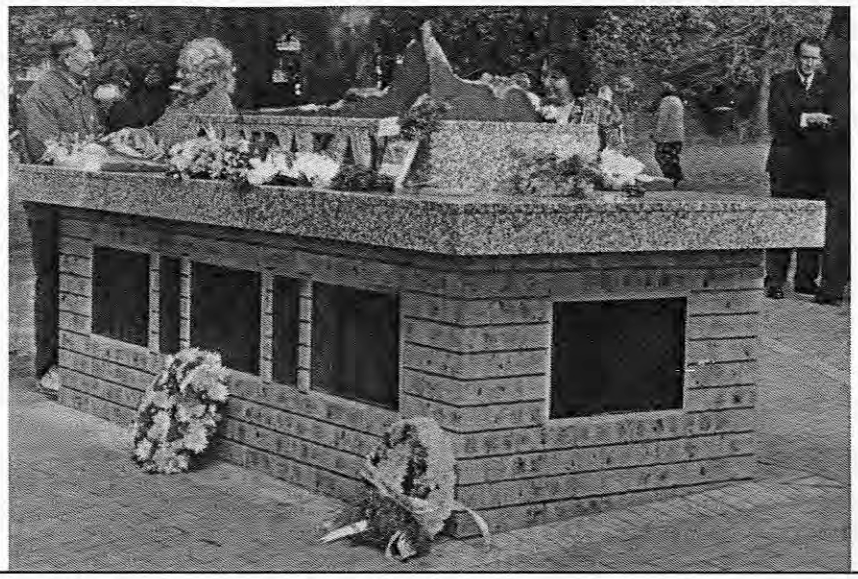
The embargo on the evidence given at the War Crimes Trials prevented relatives of Sandakan men finding out how their men died. They had been informed that they had died. Naturally any book published was read to find out what had happened. These relatives were scattered through Australian with the majority in N.S.W.

At Walls suggestion, one of the relatives whose brother had died at Sandakan, contacted any talk back session on the radio at any time Sandakan or the Death Marches between Sandakan and Ranau were mentioned. As a result a group of relatives bonded together and formed the Sandakan Family Group. Action by this group resulted in the erection of six memorials: 4 in N.S.W. 1 in each of Queensland and Victoria. The memorials have at the top a model of the topography of the area between Sandakan, Ranau and the 265 Km long track of the Death Marches between the two. On the sides are the names of the men from the district and a history of what happened. The money for these memorials was raised by donation. The memorial at Bendigo in Victoria has the names of the South

Australians and Tasmanians. Relatives in SA & WA have erected their own small memorials.

Action by the R.S.L has resulted in the Sandakan Camp being made into a peace park and a memorial at Ranau is dedicated to the men who died on the track (588) or at Ranau (501). It is on the site where gunmen Albert Cleary from Victoria was tied naked to a stake outside a guard house for escaping. He died eleven days later from the barbaric treatment he received.

In 1997 a book, "Sandakan, A Conspiracy of Silence", was published by Lynette Silver. Her interest was aroused by one of the relatives and her subsequent meeting of one of the survivors who had much to tell about his experience but was unable to express it. With great patience Silver was able to get his story and along with her thorough research into the archives at Canberra and discussion with other survivors she has produced a most readable book. In addition she has been able to identify the graves of thirty-six unknown Australian soldiers at Labuan Cemetery. This has been accepted by the Australian Division of the Commonwealth Wargraves Commission. The acceptance of the graves of twelve unknown British soldiers is awaiting approval of the Commission in London.



Sandakan Memorial at Burwood NSW showing the back of the topography model. Sandakan is at the extreme left.

Besides the R.S.L involvement another organization, the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (NMBVA), an association of Commonwealth servicemen who served in Malaya and Borneo during and after WWII has taken up the story of Sandakan and obtained Government acceptance for a Sandakan Day held on 29th May each year. This was the day that the Japanese started the last death march from Sandakan and burned down the camp leaving those too sick to march to die. A service has been held on this day at the National War Memorial for the last four years. In 2000 the Minister Bruce Scott gave the address and this year the Chief of the Defence Force Major General Peter Cosgrove.

My interest in this story has come about through association of one relative who has been a family friend for many years and the family of Col. Harry Jackson the person in charge of locating all the graves of those who died on the death marches and else where. Through these associations I have came to realize that Australia has been extremely lucky to not have had our civilian population directly involved in an invasion. This is due to the willingness of our service personal to serve overseas and be prepared to die for freedom. It also has made me realise that the effects of war continue on for many years after hostilities cease even for generations and that the atrocities inflicted are not confined to one race. We should always be mindful of the statement 'Those who don't study history are doomed to re-discover it'. Otherwise future generations of Australians may find themselves in a similar situation.

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THE RAAF'S CONTRIBUTION TO WW 2

The following address by Peter Scully, given at the Hobart Shrine on VE Day, 2001, has been provided by Col John Wertheimer, AM RFD, and gives an insight into the often forgotten contribution of the RAAF in WW 2.

VE DAY - 8TH MAY 2001
Address by AVM P J Scully to ODD BODS UK ASSN

In recent times there seems to be an increasing emphasis on the threats to Australia

posed by the Imperial Japanese Forces from 1941 to 1945. In addition to the traditional commemorations of VJ Day and the Battle of the Coral Sea, the nation has recently added events such as Milne Bay - now celebrated somewhat surprisingly, and misleadingly in my opinion, as the "Battle for Australia" - and the bombing of Darwin.

It is certainly important for our nation to recall the events of those dark days and to inform our younger generations that Australia was actually under a dire threat by a foreign power. Indeed, if one were to reflect on this issue I believe it might be logical for the bombing of Darwin to be the focus of these commemorations. This hostile act which brought the war to our own land surely provides a much sharper focus to the dangers we faced than any one of the major or minor battles which occurred further to our north. While each battle was undubtedly important in its own right I believe we should guard against our commemorations developing into a competition, one against the other for the place of greatest importance.

But more importantly, we must not forget that hostilities during the Second World War were much more widespread than those which specifically threatened our own homeland - to focus on the threat to our own national security would be selfish in the extreme. There was a much wider evil and a much harsher conflict impacting on the entire world and our civilization - a conflict in which Australia played a significant part - and one we should be proud to continue to acknowledge.

It seeme to me that the overall Australian contribution to the war against Germany and Italy receives less than adequate attention these days and more particularly, the part played by the RAAF remains largely unknown to present day Australians. I suppose it was always thus. For example, the official film made by the AWM at the conclusion of the war ran for 124 minutes - yet it devoted only 10 minutes to air operations - Australian, American and British - only one RAAF squadron was named, No 3, and it received but 43 secondsworth for its support to the Army during the Syrian campaign. No mention at all was made to the Empire Air Training Scheme, nor of the RAAF's contribution to Bomber, Coastal, Fighter Commands or the tactical air forces. The RAAF deserved more recognition than that.

The RAAF's contribution to the air war in Europe and the Middle East was enormous. Wherever, in those theatres, an air operation occurred, there would be RAAF members involved. Indeed over 27,000 members of the RAAF participated over the duration of the war. They served in every Command, in 19 RAAF squadrons and in over 200 different squadrons of the RAF - and of course Australian airmen also served as individuals in the RAF. The RAAF provided 36 per cent of the dominion aircrew who fought in Europe and the Dominion contribution was a very significant one - by 1945 nearly half the aircrew in Bomber Command were from the Dominions. They played a very large part in anyone's calculations.

But what we must never forget are the sacrifices made by those Australian airmen. Remarkably, of all Australians killed in action, or missing presumed dead - of all three services and in all theatres of that war - almost 30 per cent were members of the RAAF serving in the air war against Germany and Italy. That must be one of the most sobering statistics to come out of that war and one that should never be forgotten.

They were all volunteers; they all knew the dangers; they all realised the odds that were stacked against them; yet they continued to confront the enemy and the fearsome enemy defences day after day and night after night. One can only wonder and admire the courage of the individuals involved and perhaps wonder why, of the twenty Victoria Crosses awarded to Australian servicemen in the Second World War, only two were awarded to members of the RAAF and only one of those served in the European theatre. In retrospect, the great tragedy is that the national identity of those involved is so poorly recognisable today and it is unlikely that the full extent of their endeavours will ever be adequately revealed. The very least we can do now is to remember them and the service they gave to the Allied cause and to contemplate the valour of those involved. In Churchill's words, " It is to their devotion that in no small measure we owe our victory. Let us give them our salute."

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22 REGIMENT - AS SEEN BY A RETIRED MEMBER

The article by WO1 Ben White, ex RSM 22 Regt, in Sapper Summit 34 was read with interest by retired members who offer the following comments.

WO1 White performed his duties as RSM of 22 in a sterling manner, often with little support, and earned the respect of all personnel. His comments on the problems encountered by the Regiment in recent years appear to be right on the ball and there is no doubt the unit would have benefited considerably had he been able to remain as RSM. However, while Ben White's article displays a firm grasp of recent problems, some response is called for regarding the performance of the regiment throughout its first few decades.

When 22 Regt was formed all original officers and senior NCOs had WW2 experience and their initial rank and posting in 22 Regt was determined by their previous military rank and

experience, not by their position in the Sponsoring Authority. Certainly the first CO was a senior CRB engineer though it should be added that he had also been a Lt Col in the AIF with a distinguished war record.

As the years went by and the original officers retired, replacements were appointed from the ranks. These replacements were restricted to those members who had passed the requisite military promotion examinations, held the necessary civilian qualifications and demonstrated the required ability. The Regiment had a policy of no temporary officer ranks, except for ex servicemen, and a person's position in the sponsoring authority had no bearing on their rank in the Regiment. In later years persons of comparatively junior civilian rank were appointed to Sqn OC positions; also some engineers of senior rank in the sponsoring authorities gave up the army as it interefered with their civilian employment.

The qualifying examinations faced by officers and senior NCOs were the ARes standard military examinations and were the same as those attended by all other equivalent RAE personnel. All officers and senior NCOs were required to pass all subjects for the subsequent rank before then being considered for promotion. Training programmes were actively supported to ensure that junior officers and NCOs were well prepared to enable them to proceed to higher ranks as vacancies became available. The Regiment's structure was therefore such that officers and senior NCOs continued to serve for many years.

The inference gleaned from WO1 White's article is that 22 Regt got life a bit more easily than the rest of RAE. There are those who would disagree with him on this point. In the formative years of 22 Regt, military skills were not given such a high priority but the Regiment's purpose then was to provide a rapid civil engineering and construction response unit. 22 Regt certainly demonstrated an ability to do this. Bridge and road construction tasks executed as part of annual camp activities and others in support of sponsoring authorities, as well as bridge construction in PNG and community support projects such as water supply for Scout Jamborees provide ample demonstration of the Regiment's scope and professionalism.

Further, WO1 White's article refers to the Regiment's commitment to two weeks' training per year. In fact, officers, NCOs and a number of the sappers attended several additional week-end training activities, promotion and specialist training camps and, in some cases, completed 100 days' training per year.

By the mid-1960s the Regiment had developed a high standard of normal field engineering skills, with officers and NCOs attending courses at SME and even Canungra (for IMT) prior to training our own troops in camp. As training requirements changed, at the time of SVN, the emphasis changed further to give greater attention to basic soldiering skills. Again it seems that 22 Regt kept up to standard. During the period 1973-76 the Regt regularly competed in the Annual Small Arms competitions with all other Ares units in Victoria (about 30 in all) and throughout that four years produced the best rifle shooting team every year, topped the SMG team competition once and were overall winners in the combined small arms (rifle, smg and pistol) on two occasions, at the same time producing a number of individual winners.

The Regiment continued to perform well until the Government's privatisation program of the early 1990s took away sponsorship support, The unfortunate result of this has been a series of problems many of which have been clearly outlined by WO1 White. Let us hope that the Government's recently announced intention to provide support to employers of members of ARes will turn this situation around.

Retired members of 22 Regt wish its present members well for the future and thank WO1 Ben White for his service and leadership during his time with 22.

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THE RAE VIETNAM MEMORIAL

The History and Heritage Committee recently received information about the above RAE Vietnam Memorial being established at SME. This will incorporate a Heritage Park, including an outdoor paved area. Units and individuals are invited to contribute to the cost of this by endorsing paving stones at $50 each, such stones to carry an inscription relating to an individual soldier, unit, organisation or similar.

Should you wish to arrange for such a stone, please contact the Hon Secretary , RAE History and Heritage Committee, Mr Edgar Vial, on Tel: 9889 1105.

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PERSONALITIES

Maj L.P. (Les) Malseed RFD, ED.

Maj L.P. (Les) Malseed RFD, ED was a foundation member of the RAE History & Heritage committee in 1992 and still continues in a very active role on the committee. The following brief outline of Les's life indicates the tremendous contribution he has made to RAE in Victoria and touches briefly on other aspects of his life.

Les was born in Casterton, Victoria on the 4th June 1927. Being the son of a Methodist minister Les had several moves before settling in Melbourne at the age of 8 approximately.

Les attended about ten schools before going to Melbourne High School followed by teeeeertiary at Swinburne Technical College full time from 1943 to '46. He started work with the SECV in 1947 and completed his Diploma of Mechanical Engineering in 1949. Les continued with the SECV until departing for a short spell with the Hydro-Electricity Commission in 1951. Late in 1951 hehe returned to Victoria to join the CRB, with whom he worked until1966, when he moved across to the Gas and Fuel Corporation (GFC). He remained with GFC until his final retirement in1991 from the position of Engineering Managr , Heatane Gas department.

Les commenced his military service on 9th July 1948 when he joined 16 Const Sqn RAE,just nine day after the CMF was formed

inding that his work with SECV and later with HECT was incompatible with his CMF service he was discharged at his own request on 19th January 1951.

Les then reenlisted in CMF and joined 22 Const Regt (as a CRB employee) in 1953 and shortly after commenced his studies for promotion.

He was commisioned Lieutenant on 21st May 1958, promoted to Captain in 1963 and to Major in 1967. He remained in 22 Regt until1968 when he was psted to HQ 6 Const Gp, before his final posting, the one for which he is best known, as OC 91 Forestry Sqn in 1968. He continued in this post until he retired, after twwo extensions, at 49 on 3rd June 1976.

91 Forestry, under Les's command, was a most effective unit with excellent morale once he oversaw the design and introduction of completely new milling equipment, which peoved most effective in service.

A highlight of Les's service was his visit to SVN as an Ares officer, in April 1969, where he was attached to 17 Const Sqn.

His service with RAE also includes the role of PMC of the RAE Corps Officers' Mess at Swan Street from1973 to 76.

When the History & Heritage Committeewas formed in April 1992 les was a foundation member. On the retirement of our first chairman, Col R. Eastick, in1998 Les took the post of chairman for the remainder of that year. With a reshuffle of officer bearers Les became vice-chairman and still holds that position. Les ahs served the committee extremely well for almost ten years now, his most noticalble task being the organisation of the annual Sir Clive Steele lectures. Les's other professsional and comunity activities and hobbies include:

- Member of the committee of the Society of Military Engining.
- Member fo RAE Southern Region Corps Committee.
- Secretary of the Gas Industry Retired Officers Association.
- Member of various choral societies with an excellent voice well adapted to both church and light operatic works.
- Keen gardiner.

Les married Elaine, the love of his life, in 1951 and she has been his constant companiion and support for more than 50 years. Elaine has also been a great supporter of RAE assisting Les in all his work, including his role as PMC of the Officers' Mess and at other mess functions before and after that appointment. She has also helped greatly with various activities of this committee including Sapper Summit mail outs and suppers at the Sir Clive Ssteele lecture series

The RAE Corps will always be grateful to Les and Elaine for their supportof all its functions.

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CORPS SUBSCRIPTIONS, 2001

DUE NOW

Officers and Senior NCOs, both serving and retired, are reminded that RAE Corps subscriptions for the year 2001 are now due . The rates of subscription are:

Rank:	Full Time	Part Time
OR	$15.00	$10.00
Sgt	$23.00	$17.00
S/Sgt	$25.00	$19.00
WO2	$27.00	$21.00
WO1	$29.00	$23.00
Lt	$22.00	$16.00
Capt	$26.00	$20.00
Maj	$31.00	$25.00
Lt Col	$39.00	$33.00
Col	$45.00	$39.00
Brig.	$51.00	$43.00

Maj Gen	$62.00 $53.00

Retired Personnel

OR	$5.00
Senior NCO/WO	$10.00
Officer	$20.00

Cheques payable to:RAE Corps Committee should be sent to The Treasurer, RAE Corps Committee C/- 4 CER, 56a Dublin Road Ringwood East 3135.

URGENT NEW ENTRIES NEEDED see page 2

RAE Corps Officers Mess Golf Day: Thursday, 11 October, 2001

Must reach Capt McAuley by 10/8/01

Capt W J W McAuley, RAE (R), PO Box 86, MOAMA, NSW 2731
Tels: (03) 5489 3218; (0428) 486 018.

Name..... Rank.....
Address .....
Phone Home..... Bus ..... Mobile.....
Member RMGC: Yes No Handicap: .....
Luncheon: Yes No Golf Yes No
Green Fees: Cheque attached

Note: Your cheque must be attached and is non-refundable unless the event is over- subscribed.

Sapper Summit

To
RAE (VIC) Historical & Heritage Committee C/- Oakleigh Barracks1318 North Road
OAKLEIGH SOUTH VIC 3167

Name.....

I enclose payment for

☐ 1 year's subscription to Sapper Summit year 2001 $8.00

☐ The First Fifty Years $5.00

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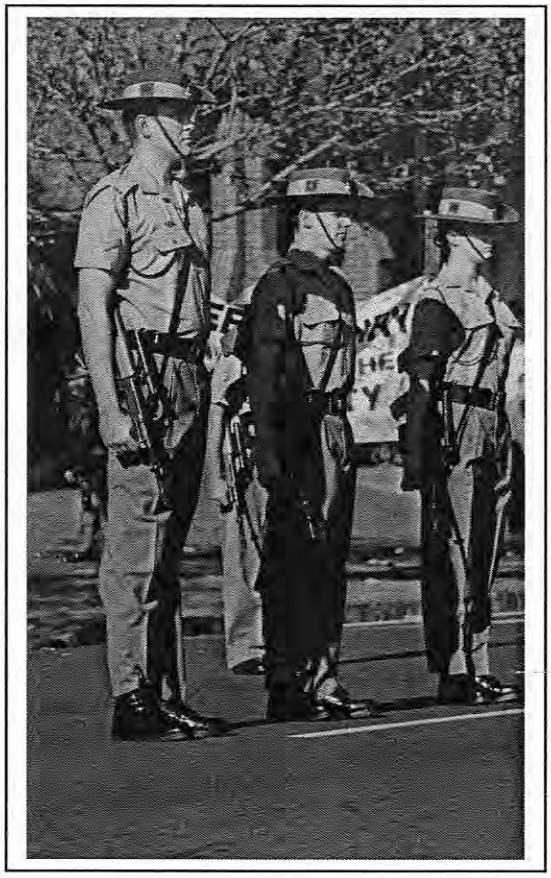
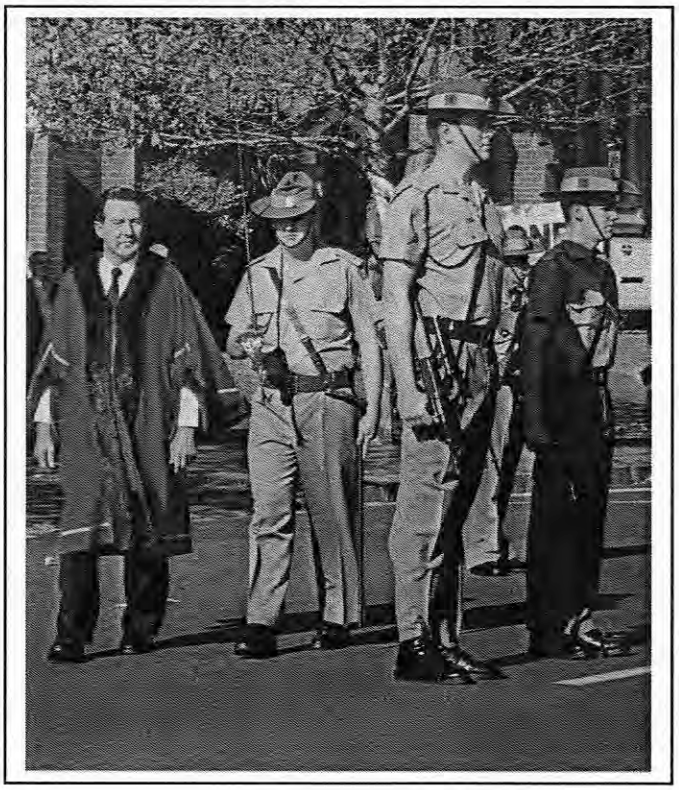
22 CONST.REGT. GET TOGETHER ATTENDANCE RETURN

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

I We will/ will not be attending the weekend Number attending.....
I/We will attend the following functions

Friday 9th Nov	Casual night	Yes/No	Saturday 10th Nov	Dinner	Yes/No
Sunday 11th Nov	BBQ Brunch	Yes/No	Sunday 11th Nov	Service	Yes/no All

Returns to be sent to: Peter Bloor PO Box 101 Numurkah Vic 3636

Some Photo's of 22 Const Regt at the Flag Raising in Oakleigh