"SAPPER SUMMIT"

RAE CORPS NEWSLETTER

JUNE '94 EDITION

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Editorial - The Indices of Morale; Music to our Ears

by

Colonel H.R. Ellis RFD

This article started as a request from the irrepressible LTCOL Bob Eastick, and the efforts of MAJ Don Hughes who was prepared to act as my ghost writer to ensure that I didn't incur the "Wrath of Bob" for a late or non-existent submission. How's that for teamwork, or esprit de corps, on MAJ Hughes' part.

The ghost article was great, but it wasn't me..... And it didn't have enough home truths. Yet, it was so good that it deserved to be used. So it is the basis of this article. The words in italics are MAJ Hughes'. The rest are mine. Here goes .....

"The second hardest thing in the world to do is to start up an orchestra: the hardest thing in the world, is to try and stop it once it is underway!"

I feel the same way with the LSF Engineers. We were kick-started into action by the Force Structure Review in 1992 as a new Engineer Formation with a very real and definitive role in the defence of Australia. Although some of the instruments were a bit out of tune, and individual musicians need some further practice, we are

now out of the orchestral warm-up session prior to the performance, and at full speed supporting the main act: our customers, the Logistic Support Force.

At the same time, 10 Field Squadron is supporting 4th Brigade, Facilities Branch is maintaining and improving our depots, and all the units bid for the limited RAE resource and expect the impossible. And it is achieved!

How is it done? Why do we do it?

The answers are not simple, but the terms are. We do it because of pride in ourselves, our unit and the corps. We do it because when we start to wane, a fellow sapper lifts our spirits with a curse or a prod that causes us to focus on the job and what we are there to do. Let's get the job done - and do it well.

Indeed, we are adjusting the beat and tone of our tune as we travel our path: but the melody is strong, the melody of the Sapper. It is the same melody that built the pyramids; stretched the road network of the Roman Empire halfway around the world; was at the forefront of many battles throughout the centuries; put a man on the moon, and is currently rebuilding the lives of many in third world countries. The Sapper spirit is pervasive and perceptive: it extends into all walks of life and has the ability to reduce all manner of complex problems into practical and achievable tasks.

We have a great gift to offer. We have our skills that can be turned to visible, tangible results. We can look on the results with pride.

Too often, unfortunately, the pats do not reach the backs of those who deserve it. There is no excuse for that as it is an essential part of leadership to pass on credit and recognition where it is due, and to ensure that those responsible for the achievement are recognised at higher levels.

Conversely, those who derive their relative self-esteem by belittling others or taking credit for others achievements will be quickly discovered for what they are. When we are truly proud of ourselves we can afford to be magnanimous in our praise of the achievements of others and watch them grow in stature. The rewards come back one hundred fold.

This is happening in the Corps in Victoria. Our sappers, of all ranks and trades, have felt the melody, and are contributing to the performance with their own talent and skill. Wherever I travel with the LSF, the exploits of our sappers are vividly recalled and revered by many. Some are in awe at the ability and skill of the sapper art, some in respect of the determination and dedication of the sapper attitude, others at the shear ability to get the job done - no matter what the difficulties.

If there is a down side in our performance to date, it relates to our support of mess activities and our ability to relate to others from outside our unit. Changes in units and depots have an unsettling effect. The team has been disrupted and takes time to reform. We have had long enough to provide unit stability and have largely achieved it. While maintaining our primary focus on our unit tasks, we need to recognise the benefits to be derived from peripheral activities.

Messes play a vital part in esprit de corps. They provide a forum for relaxing and sharing enjoyment with our peers. They provide an opportunity for getting to know each other better, for understanding each others strengths and weaknesses and confirming the strength in unity.

Too often our mess functions are poorly attended. I urge everyone to identify their part in the team and ensure that they attend as part of the team, even when it is difficult, for the team is not the same without you.

No matter what I (or anyone else) does or says, the melody will never stop. This I encourage. The skill and ability of each musician in the orchestra is essential to the performance. When all instruments are in harmony, the effect is sensational. This is my aim; to have all LSF Engineers and their sister units not only playing the same melody, but also in tune (with harmony) to produce outstanding performances.

Whatever the tune, we are well underway. Nothing will stop us in our quest to do the best possible for Australia.❑

SAPPERS AT THE READY
Logistic Support Force Engineers

by

Major D.C. Hughes,
SO2 OPS HQ LSF Engrs

Background

The Logistic Support Force (LSF) provides logistic support to combat operations at a scale governed by the size of the force deployed. It is tailored to meet the forces specific requirements by augmenting the existing civilian infrastructure or in providing the required logistic support not available within a given area of operations.

The focus of the LSF is to ensure that the combat soldier is fully armed, well fed and watered, within close reach of medical treatment, has combat vehicles fully fuelled and maintained, and is provided with a number of other administrative support services, such as; Postal, Movement Control, Accommodation, Finance, SIB and Amenities. The motto of the LSF is "Ready to Serve". Sapper involvement underpins all of these support activities.

Operational Origins

The LSF has its operational origins with the raising of the 1st Australian Logistic Support Group (1 ALSG) at the beginning of the Australian commitment to the Vietnam conflict. In April 1966, 1 ALSG was raised to provide logistic support to the Army component of the force in Vietnam.

1 ALSG was located at Vung Tau and comprised a number of logistic and domestic support units grouped, for efficiency and defence, into a single complex controlled by a formation headquarters. 1 ALSG existed until October 1971 when it was disbanded on the withdrawal of the Australian Task Force from Vietnam.

With the raising of the Operational Deployment Force (ODF), now Ready Deployment Force (RDF), in 1980/81, the LSG was reformed on a "sponsor unit" and "shadow posted" basis, to support the RDF on various contingencies when ordered. During Exercise Kangaroo 89 the need for a dedicated LSF was confirmed and in November 1990 the LSF was raised as a formation and now numbers around 2500 personnel.

LSF Sapper Tasks

Sappers play a crucial role in the LSF, requiring skill and expertise in the full gambit of engineer tasks; particularly logistic support engineering tasks which concentrates on survivability, sustainability and maintaining the mobility of the various administrative support units.

LSF Sapper Units

The high readiness sapper commitment to the LSF, when activated, consists of; an Engr Cell on HQ LSF, 21 Const Sqn, 198 Wks Sect (an element of 19 CE Wks) and 4 Fire Sect (based in Townsville). The lower readiness sapper units of the LSF are structured on the Reserve Engineer Units located in Victoria. LSF Engrs as a formation, was raised on 1 July 1992.

LSF Engrs consists of; HQ LSF Engrs based at the new multi user depot (MUD) at Oakleigh Barracks, HQ 22 Const Regt with its two Sqns (105 and 106 Const Sqns) also based at Oakleigh, HQ 7ESR and 55 Res Sqn based at Ringwood, whilst 39 E&M Sqn and 38 Fd Sqn are based at Newborough in the Latrobe Valley in Eastern Victoria. LSF Engrs also operate the quarry and mill sites at Puckapunyal. A Fire Sqn has recently been included on the ORBAT.

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

by D.N. Parrot
11/11/1993

(The Legion Journal Mar 94)

We took the first flight up to Canberra
On a bright and cloudless day.
We went to pay our humble respects
To a Soldier from far away.

We do not know this Soldier's name
And we never will
We do not know his rank or fame
Just that he paid our bill.

He lost his life on the Western Front
In the war to end all wars
He's come at last to his native land
Honoured for his cause.

All honour, laud and reverence
To this Warrior be
Who gave his life so willingly
For the likes of you and me.

So the Soldier has come home at last
His cause has not been lost
He lies in peace and humility
In his land of the Southern Cross.

We have kept the home fires burning
For this Soldier lying lone
May your mates rest without yearing
For the boys have now come home.

May your mates rest without yearing
For the boys have now come home.

ANZAC REQUIEM
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN

I saw the going down of the sun on that "Anzac Day"
- the chaotic maelstrom of Australia's blooding!
I fought in the frozen mud on the Somme.
In a blazing destroyer exploding in the North Sea.
I fought on the perimeter at Tobruk.
Crashing in the flaming wreckage of a fighter in New Guinea;
lived with the dammed in a place called Changi
Fought in the snow at a place called Korea and again in the jungles of Malaya, Borneo and South Vietnam.
I was your mate, the kid across the street, the medical student graduate,
the mechanic at the corner garage, the baker who brought you the bread,
the gardener who cut your lawns, the clerk who sent your bills.
I was a private in the Army, a naval commander, an air force bombardier.
No man knows me! No name marks my tomb!
for I am every Australian serviceman; I am the unknown soldier!
I died for a cause I held just, in the service of my land,
that you and yours may stay in freedom!
I am proud to be an Australian.

AND IN THE MORNING WE WILL REMEMBER THEM
LEST WE FORGET

"Castle Chit Chat"

by

Major Don Hughes

Much continues to happen in the Sapper World in Victoria.

Training

The new regional approach to RAE GRES training within the State has proved highly successful. 27 Plant Operators, 25 Drivers and over 70 Field Engineers have been trained or upgraded in Southern Region this year.

Key LSF Engrs personnel participated in Ex Warhorse (the annual LSF TEWT) in the Northern Territory recently, whilst numerous recons and tasks continue to be conducted throughout the south-east corner of the continent. The headquarters also conducted its annual deployment, Exercise "Castle Crusade", to test procedures and update on individual skills and competencies. The highlight being participation in a live Company Ambush, at night, with 8/7 RVR.

Ceremonial

The ceremonial highlight of the year was the parading of the Corps Banner in the Melbourne ANZAC Day parade where all Victorian sappers (past and present) marched proudly behind our corps new rallying point. Well done RSM, and it was good to see so many of our Associations "on deck".

HQ LSF Engrs also sponsored the Southern Region Waterloo Dinner this year. An outstanding success, special thanks must go to CAPT Mick Renfrey and his team. Well done.

Guest Speakers

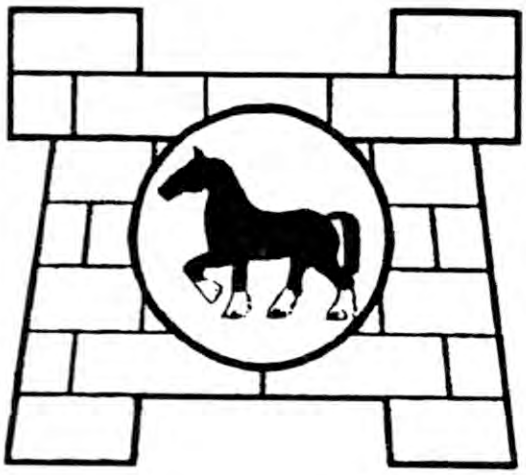
Brigadier Noble CSC was the recent guest speaker at the Old Sappers Association Waterloo Dinner. After "Weary" Dunlop last year as the guest speaker, Brigadier Noble had big shoes to fill. In true Sapper fashion, he presented an informative and entertaining speech much appreciated by all.

We look forward to the Sir Clive Steele Memorial Lecture later this year when our Colonel Commandant, Colonel John Wertheimer RFD, will speak on the Sapper experience in Borneo, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea.

Depots

Our Newborough depot has had a new lease of life with a complete refurbishment whilst increases in new furniture and computing equipment across the formation has significantly enhanced our work environment. The LSF Engrs training and storage facility at Puckapunyal will also be enhanced later this year and should provide a strong focus for sapper training in Southern Region well into the next century.

UBIQUE.



Sapper Archives - Oakleigh

by

LTCOL J.E. Slee

One of the tasks accepted by the Historical and Heritage Committee, ably led by LTCOL Bob Eastick, MBE, is to develop and maintain an Archive of pictorial and other material which will be kept at Oakleigh Barracks. It is hoped to record the lives and activities of sappers from the long past to the present, in the World Wars, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam, and all the other places where the RAE has served in peace and war - not forgetting camps, exercises, parades etc of CMF and Reserve units.

The Committee member responsible for this task as Archive Officer is PO Bill Goodall, and he has begun the collection with the Bulldog-Wau Road photos and other material which were exhibited at various locations during 1993, and at the Inaugural Sir Clive Steele Memorial Lecture.

Many of these were copied from prints kept in comprehensive albums by 2/4 Fd Sqn Association, whose members thus set a great example to other unit associations and individuals.
The Committee urges all sappers (current and "old") and unit associations to support the Archive by supplying historical material, particularly photos, to be safely stored for the future and kept available to future members of the Corps.
Several old sappers responded to an earlier plea by telling us about albums etc which they hold, and of course treasure, but most will not let them leave their hands. It is of course possible to copy old prints, but it is an exercise beyond the funds available for us to do many of them. Where will these precious records end up if they are not passed to the Archive? In the tip, after your descendants tire of storing them as they gather dust and fade away like you?

Save them now, while we have the chance! If you don't want to let them go now, what about a provision in your will!

It is essential that each photo or other item is clearly captioned - for example, on the reverse side with felt pen, (not hard Biro or pencil), giving at least the place, date, people/ unit/ project, and as many other circumstances as possible.

Please look through your bottom drawers, garage shelves and shoe boxes NOW before these valuable and irreplaceable records of sapper lives and times are irretrievably lost.

Write to: PO Bill Goodall
Oakleigh Barracks
1318 North Road
OAKLEIGH SOUTH VIC 3167

or ring him on 589 4507.

Go on. Do it now! ♦

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How to Stay Forever Young

Live honestly, eat slowly, sleep soundly, work diligently, worship faithfully and lie about your age!

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

This newsletter, since its inception, has stressed the importance of "esprit de corps" so the Editor was interested in a morsel, called the "The Independent Howl", brought to his attention by an interested reader.

Since the message is to the "No 1 Independent Coy" stationed in Darwin in 1941 and is timeless, I have attached its opening paragraphs:

"THE INDEPENDENT HOWL"

First Addition 11 August 1941

Price Two Pence Editorial

by Major J. Edmunds-Wilson

"Oh Loyal to the Royal in Thyself."

With these words Tennyson once began an address to the Queen of England, & I can find no more fitting opening to this Editorial than to make these words an injunction to the readers of this Company paper on its first Editorial & say, "Be ye Loyal to the Royal within yourselves."

Just as every man has a soul, so has every unit a soul or spirit known as "Esprit de-corps". The Army unit is much more than a machine, it is made up of flesh and blood, & therefore it is influenced by human feelings & is responsive to human impulses, historical traditions, established customs, privileges, special uniforms and badges, regimental mottoes, colour-patches etc., which affect the character of units far more than can ever be imagined by those outside the Army who often think of such things, if they think of them at all, as trifles.

These many things which go to make up pride in your unit, form a kind of link between it & discipline, & it is the paramount duty of each one of us to create and preserve this 'pride of unit' by every means in our power.

Of all influences over mankind, few are so powerful or far reaching as pride or, if you prefer it, self-respect. There is some innate quality which I have called royal within every man. It is that regal quality which carries a man on when every thing may appear lost, it is that quality which makes him do the decent thing as long as there's a spark of manhood left in him.

We often hear it said of a soldier that, "he did not know what fear meant."--- do not believe that for a moment, for when danger or death is near all men fear it. There are some men, many men, who overcome that fear, and they are called brave --- what enables them to overcome fear? One of the greatest of the influences which hold a soldier to his duty in battle, is pride. We must, therefore, one and allavoid any act which will tend to lower or destroy that pride or self respect which I have called, the Royal in ourselves.

This paper will be a record of this companies activities, of its humour and pathos, its trials and temptations. Everyone and anyone in the company will be free to contribute a morsel of literary genius to its pages & I trust it will do much to foster the feeling of Esprit de-Corps within the Company.

We have every reason to be intensely proud of this unit, the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, also to be proud of the cause for which Australia as a nation is fighting.

> We must be free or die, who speak the tongue that Shakespeare spoke, the faith and morals hold which Milton held.

We must however think not only of the present but of the future also, we must even now begin to prepare ourselves to win the peace as well as the war. We must not only be a band of hard independent fighting men, but also independent thinkers.

> Mind is the master-power that moulds and makes,
> And man is mind, and evermore he takes
> The tool of thought, and shaping what he wills
> Brings forth a thousand joys, a thousand ills.

Therefore let us within the unit through the medium of this paper bring forth the brave, the good and the humourus thought & we will find that it will ease the monotony of daily routine & in

many ways will help to build that Esprit de-Corps so vital to the well-being of any unit.

I therefore commend it to you as a worthwhile effort; remember always the motto of our unit --- "We will, it shall be done." □

THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE SUB-COMMITTEE

by LTCOL R. Eastick MBE

The History and Heritage Sub-Committee with the move to the Oakleigh Barracks has taken the opportunity to play a larger part in Sapper affairs.

Apart from extensions to existing Corps histories, it is intended to encourage a series of shorter contributions of sapper interest.

Many of the Retired and Reserve Officers, because of their long association with particular sapper interests, can provide a closer focus than larger works.

To this end, this Sub-Committee can offer the opportunity to express and record those interests, either as a researcher or writer, or both.

Those who are interested in helping with this activity should contact:

The History & Heritage Sub-Committee
C/- HQ LSF Engrs
Oakleigh Barracks
1318 North Road
OAKLEIGH SOUTH VIC 3167

KIDS CORNER
by Ashlee Hughes
Age 6

What are the following?

(answers on Page 20)

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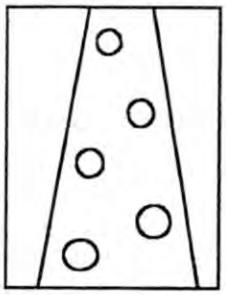

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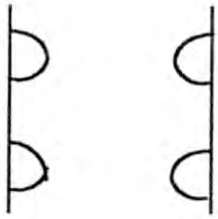

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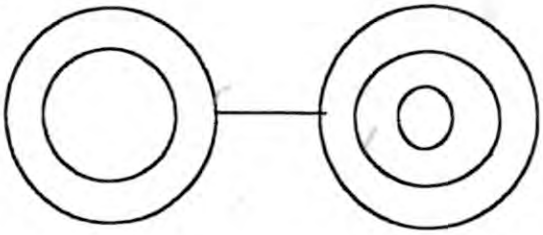

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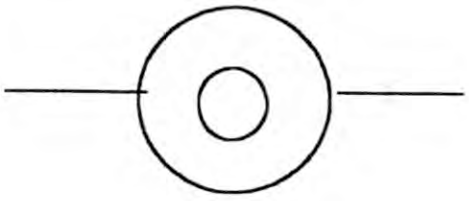

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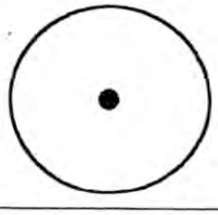

WINE AND CHEESE TASTING

OFFICERS MESS 23 APRIL 1994

by

LTCOL Fenwick MBE

As a Bachchanal apprentice I attended with other devotees the excellent wine and cheese tasting at the officers mess. I do not now appear before you as a wine critic but rather as an appreciative reporter.

The wines were presented by David Harvey of Hills International Wines with his assistant Tanya Kennelly while Carney Doyle (our Secretary) choose the cheeses accompanied with plates of greens.

The items presented were, together with their descriptions:

WINES AND WINERY

MARIENBERG Winery is situated at McLaren Vale in S.A. - a district with a very temperate climate. They presented the following two whites:

1992 Lavinia Classic Dry White

This chablis style wine has the fullness of the Semmon and the herbaceousness of the Sauvignon blanc. This wine has attractive fruit with a lingering crispness on the palate.

1992 Chardonnay

This wine is one which displays richness and complexity. The oak is well integrated with the fruit and flavour of this wine which well typifies the McLaren Vale style. The wine is drinking well now but will live on for 5-6 years a champaqne Nicole Pinot Chandonnay.

McGUINGAN BROTHERS. Vineyards are positioned in the Hunter Valley, Mudgee and SA and they presented:

Night Harvest Graves

Vintaged from Sauvignon Blanc, Rhine Riesling and Chardonnay grapes. Dry, but very flavoursome with a delicate fruitiness that is very refreshing.

Black Lavel Shiraz

The grapes for our Black Shiraz are consistently rich and flavoursome, this elegant Shiraz has a medium red and red/purple hues.

Bin 4000 Cabernet Sauvignon

This wine has an intense purple colour. It has a lifted fruit bouquet with a touch of oak showing through.

Bin 6000 Verdelho

It has an obvius Verdelho character on the palate with fresh almost tropical fruit characters showing through. The palate finishes clean and fresh.

Fathers own fine old tawny port.

The Basedow Wines were:

Basedow Cabernet Sauvignon

Barossa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon fruit from the exceptional 1990 vintage has been married and matured with oak to produce this young masterpiece. A complex blend of elegant "raspberry and blackberry" fruit and fine oak integration hold the promise of future greatness.

Basedow White Burgundy

Lemon-citrus characteristics dominate both the bouquet and palate with the wood maturation adding vanillon complexity and depth to this smooth drinking white wine.

Basedow Old Tawny Port

The Basedow proud tradition of fortified wine making is exemplied in this majestic masterpiece, with base stock drawn from the 1975 vintage. Magnificant luscious sweet fruit and pungent spirit dominate this fruit-filled, totally overpowering old tawny port - a purist's delight.

CHEESES

Cheeses from the King Island diary include:

Bass Strait Blue

A natural rinded blue cheese with a rich creamy texture and even dispersions of blue mould throughout.

A subtle blue cheese with a developed blue character and clean aftertaste.

Accompany a sweet wine, pinot or wooded Cardonnay.

SURPRISE BAY CHEDDAR

A twelve month matured, naturally crumbly cheese with a good bite.

Accompany a full bodied red and wooded Claret.

Milawa Chevre

Careful handling and maturation has produced a cheese of fine texture which is not overly strong in flavour.

Accompany a sparkling wine, Chardonnay (non wooded) or light red.

Milawa Gold

(Washed Rind)

A strong smelling washed rind cheese with a mild sweet flavoured centre.

Peel the rind back and eat the centre.

Accompany a fruity white or light red wine.

Cape Whickam Double Brie

A soft surface ripened white mould cheese made from fresh cows milk.

The white surface mould assists in maturing the curd to soft creamy centre.

The cheese has a superb rich flavour that continues to develop with age.

Accompany a crisp white wine.

The company, wine and cheese together with an offer of 40% discount on list prices were sufficient to persuade me to place an order. ◆

****

CHILDREN OF TODAY

Children today have become accustomed to luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority, disrespect for their elders, and they like to talk instead of work. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, and tyrannise their teachers."

Socrates 397BC

At a newly built staging camp at Morotai enroute to the invasion of Borneo I took my customary morning meditation, at the coy latrines at the rear of the site. At the same time a bulldozer on the adjourning area starting its clearing. Sounds indicated that each sweep was coming closer. I was caught in the classical dilemma. One part of me said flee while the other said stay.

The next morning my grinning subalterns said "Guess what the troops wrote home about last night?" Faced with such a situation I felt that a company announcement was required. At the company parade in authoritative tones I said "Despite some views to the contrary I can state that I do know when a s-----e falls on me.❖

The planned excursion to Port Fairy, Portland and Warrnambool on 21 May 1994 was postponed because of unsuitable weather. It will be planned for the spring.

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Two elderly Sappers, just a little hard of hearing, met in the street.

"It's windy today, " said A. "No," said B, "it's Thursday." "So am I, "said A. "Let's go and have a beer"

OAKLEIGH BARRACKS OFFICERS MESS
MESS CALENDAR 1994

01 Jul 94	H-Hour
16 Jul 94	Buffet
05 Aug 94	Opening of Out Door Training Facy/LSF Units Sth Region (All Corps)
21 Aug 94	Ladies Dining-In (All Corps)
02 Sep 94	H-Hour
24 Sep 94	Grand Final Function (Families All Corps)
07 Oct 94	H-Hour
04 Nov 94	H-Hour
02 Dec 94	Clive Steel Memorial Lecture
10 Dec 94	Christmas at Home (All Corps)

'Now is the time for all good men to come to the party.'

Articles for "Sapper Summit". All Sappers are invited to submit articles for your magazine. Send to Editor at Oakleigh Barracks.

MAJOR W.G. BOTHAM, DCM

- SAGA OF A SOLDIER (continued)

by

LTCOL J.E. Slee
Historical and Heritage Committee

In the "Sapper Summit" of April 1994, Bill Goodall, of the Historical and Heritage Committee, introduced us to this remarkable Sapper, in his role as OC Rabaul Fortress Coy, RAE, 1941-42. Further on in the Newsletter, under the heading above, a precis of a longer narrative told how Bill Botham won the DCM as a LCPL in the Bedfordshire Regiment on the Western Front, 1917.

After World War 1, Bill migrated to Australia. He joined the Citizen Forces in 1934, serving in 34 Fortress Coy, RAE, 1934-40. He was appointed OC Rabaul Fortress Coy, RAE, in 1941. After his return to Australia, via New Guinea, as described below, he was appointed to Brisbane Fixed Defences, 1942-43.

We are fortunate to have, thanks to research by Bill Goodall and by members of "The Old Sappers", copies of two stories by MAJ Botham concerning his escape from New Britain in 1942. One is entitled "Thirty Six Days to Freedom"; the second, based on the first, under the title of "What do we do now, Cappy?", won a Repatriation Commission True Short Story Competition in 1963.

We shall present MAJ Botham's escape story as he wrote it in this and a following edition.

However it is first desirable to set right the record as regards the Praed Point Coastal Battery which is referred to in Bill Goodall's article, April 1994 Edition, and also early in the narrative which follows.

Praed Point Battery, Rabaul

These notes are taken from a report by the late COL F.N. Nurse, RAA, which was published in the Australian Army Journal, (date not known). A regular officer and Arty. Adviser to AHQ, 1940-41, he carried out the reconnaissance in February 1941, on which the Praed Point Battery was based.

In December 1945, COL Nurse took over command of Rabaul Base Sub-Area after the port was reoccupied by the Australian Army, and made a detailed inspection and report on the Battery's fate. He found "utterly untrue" reports that Japanese dive bombers in their attack on the battery on 22 January 1942 blasted the upper gun out of the ground and caused it to crash onto the lower gun, killing a number of men. A press report at the time had said that the guns had been "bombed into useless masses of twisted metal".

Inspection in 1945 revealed that a near miss had caused minor damage to the upper gun, while the lower gun had been untouched. Both had been disabled by the retreating Australians in 1942 by removal of the lock and slide box from each. The Japanese had left both Australian guns undisturbed, but had emplaced four of their own adjacent to them, as well as some AA guns in the vicinity. Because of this, the damage to the upper gun might even have been caused by our own bombing of the Japanese installations.

It should be noted that the Australian Battery "was intended to deal with the situation as prevailing in 1940-41, viz. fleeting bombardment by, at most, one or two armed merchantment". It was purely a small-scale deterrent defence against possible small-scale attack from the sea, and not for defence against invasion. "The problem of air attack or sea bombardment on a Pacific War scale was not budgetted for since sufficient coast guns and anti-aircraft guns were not available for the more important mainland ports let alone Rabaul". (COL F.N. Nurse).

THIRTY SIX DAYS TO FREEDOM

BY

MAJOR W.G. BOTHAM DCM
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS
(Retired)

"THE INVASION"

No man of "L" (Lark) Force could ever forget that first day - 23 January 1942 - when the Japanese made their final onslaught at Rabaul by sea, land and air.

From the day of the first bombing attack on 21 December 1941, the writing had been on the wall. We all thought the invasion must be imminent, when on January 20th a massive attack by heavy bombers and carrier-based aircraft created much damage and destroyed in the air the small "Wirraway" Air Force contingent. A further air attack on the morning of January 22nd included a heavy dive bombing at Praed Point and Albino Bay Camp which put the Coastal Battery out of action and killed fourteen men.

The area was evacuate, RAA/RAE personnel joined "A" Company, 2/22 Bn at the Rabaul end of the Lower Drome which had been cratered by an R.A.E. demolition party; "R"Company went to the Four Ways area on the far side of Rabaul.

Sapper H. Vale, truck driver, stayed with me to perform such demolition work as was possible at Albino Bay Camp. We were joined later by SGTS J. Potter and E. Mann who had buried the three RAE men killed in the dive bombing attack, namely: CPL D. Sandison, Sappers F. Clissold and J. Bennett. The isolated camp was no place to tarry, so in the thirty hundred-weight truck we made the rough and tortuous journey around the now quiescent volcano Matapi to "A" Company H.Q. Here Lieuts A. Chandler and W. Larkin with the remainder of the RAE/RAA men were resting after the bombing and the subsequent long walk from Praed Point. After a roll call a message arrived that many men had reached Nordup having walked around the north side of the South Daughter mountain from Praed Point. With Sapper J. Perry as driver I collected two parties bringing them to the Lower Drome. Returning from a third trip with a few stragglers I found to my amazement that all the A Company personnel with the RAA/RAE men had departed to man a beach frontage area from the extinct volcano Vulcan extending towards the far side of Rabaul.

Proceeding on through Rabaul, which was deserted and occasionally being forced by low flying aircraft to take cover under trees, I reached Ralauna with nine personnel to meet Captain E. Shiers at the "Y" Company H.Q. Colonel H. Carr being informed, I was asked to undertake some demolition work at important road points. So in darkness and heavy rain, the going to Battalion Headquarters at Noah's Mission was difficult. There, after collecting explosives from Captain Gray R.A.E. I sent two parties to the selected demolition points keeping one party in reserve at the Battalion H.Q.

During the early hours of January 23rd, as the Japanese landing at so many points developed, the infantry companies were forced back. By 0730 hrs the Bn. H.Q. commenced to move back to Malabonga Junction, the RAE truck being used to transport Battalion signalmen with some equipment, myself, SGT Potter, two Sappers and the driver.

With low flying enemy aircraft overhead and bad roads, the journey around Vunakanau - the top drome - was quite hazardous. At one very bad spot and to keep the road passable, I left the two Sappers with shovels to make temporary repairs and instructions to follow on to the Junction. After conveying the signalmen to Malabonga Junction we continued to the "L" Force H.Q. at Toma.

When reporting to COL Scanlon at Toma about 0930 hrs I met Captain Gray R.A.E. and Lieut Fischer. Later the B.M. - CAPT McLeod and the 1.0. - Lieut Figgis arrived from the Vunakanau aerodrome area with their reports. I believe it was following this that Scanlon made his decision to withdraw - as best as anyone could - down the Island.

About 1030 the Colonel, the B.M. 1.0., and myself considered a line of withdrawal. After poring over the map, it was considered the best route would be via Malabonga and the Baining Mountains as the Japanese had landed at Pt. Liguan and the road around Ataliklikam would be occupied. The decision made, the Colonel ordered me to proceed to Malabonga taking any H.Q. personnel I could in the R.A.E. lorry.

"WITHDRAWAL"

So, at 1100 hrs, Day One- "Fight for Survival and Freedom" commenced. What a fight - or flight really - it was to be! The narrow dirt road to Malabonga was very bad - four-wheeled drive vehicles were unknown to us in early 1942 - so trucks bogged easily. Near the start of our journey was the Public Works grader on the side of the road. SGT Potter and Sapper Perry spent such time as we could spare in putting it out of action. En route a wooden bridge had to be repaired and trees cleared from the road. I was thankful we had an axe with us. At one spot the side of the track subsided under our laden lorry which remained poised precariously on three wheels as we clambered out by the front seat. Men in a following one ton truck included SSGT Jack Elton and Sapper Ralph James of my company. Their truck managed to pass our lorry on the near side and when roped to our vehicle, with all hands assisting, pulled it into a safe position. Elton relieved Perry, who was worn out, as driver, and eventually we reached the end of the road at Malabonga. Leaving the lorry amidst the trees after dismantling some of the essential parts was the last act. Then as we were moving along the foot track to the Baining Mountains we could hear the Japanese aircraft bombing and machine gunning the trucks. The party at this stage comprised myself - Captain Botham, SSGT J. Elton, SGT Potter, Sappers James and Perry. All the party carried their arms and ammunition. I had the axe and some rations in a kit bag. We walked along the rising track until 2000 hours when utterly spent we tried to sleep. Heavy rain fell and "bush mockers"- biting insects - added to our miserable state, Jack Elton being the chief sufferer from the insects.

Day Two was the first full day of the upward climb in the Bainings towards Lemingi Mission. With our kit and weaponry, the ascent over slippery soil was difficult and exhausting. By 1600 hrs on Day Three we reached Lemingi. Quite a number of "L" Force personnel were there including the Commander, Colonel Scanlon. I did not see him again until his return from captivity at the end of the war. Some tea and sugar was obtainable at Lemingi. We were glad to be able to make a brew and eat frugally of our remaining foodstuff. A night under cover in a native hut prepared our party for Day Four when we were about at first light for another trek over the mountains. Lieut Best and a powerful Manus native led the way to the South East coast where we all hoped to find assistance of some kind. After walking for an hour a fast rock strewn river was an obstacle. In the crossing, young Jack Perry lost his boots which was indeed a tragedy. What might be our lot in the days ahead no one could say, so Jack returned to Lemingi. Sadly we continued, resolving not to remove our footwear when fording any river. A small and poor Baining Village was reached by nightfall where we stayed with Fred Kolmorgan and Ron Brown of the 2/22 Bn. It was cold at that altitude and we were glad to make some tea also to find a tiny hut for shelter.

At first light on Day Five we made some tea before moving on. Jack Elton and I, answering the call of nature, used some

leaves of a jungle plant in lieu of toilet paper. The effect later on our respective behinds was extremely painful for a couple of days! This day was a real test of one's fortitude in the movement over mountain ridges and swift running rivers. At one wide river a thick rope of, tropical liana was stretched from bank to bank along which we forded the swift current breast deep. The Manus boy stood in mid river and gave assistance. As night feel about thirty of us rested near one river bank. The rain fell and the hours passed slowly until the dawn of Day Six. There was heavy going as we moved early, down to a lower altitude along a track cut by the Manus Boy and Ted Best. Later, a better defined track in more level country was traversed. At 1700 hrs our small party reached an old native shelter and decided to rest there overnight as it becomes dark at that latitude by 1800 hrs. Clearing the ground under the shelter we disturbed a large snake which, no doubt, as alarmed as we were, slithered away. Just on nightfall we heard heavy shelling off the coast and resolved to move warily in the morning.

Note: The LT Ted Best mentioned above and elsewhere was captured near Gasmata in 1942. He survived POW Camp, to eventually become Lord Mayor of Melbourne 1970-71.

About 1000 hrs on Day Seven, SGTS Elton and Potter, Sapper James and I arrived at the Saw Mill, Adler Bay. We found a small coastal steamer lying disabled offshore by Japanese gunfire. A white flag of some material was hanging from a flagpole near the beach. Strewn around were pamphlets, dropped by Japanese aircraft, demanding that all Australian soldiers surrender and await capture. A few men of the Rabaul force were around not knowing what to do from whom we learnt that a number had continued southwards on the previous day. We decided to follow without delay. It would be a struggle for survival, so Elton's tommy gun, Potter's and James' rifles were stripped, thrown into the sea with ammunition and hand grenades. One steel helmet with the lining extracted was retained as a cooking utensil. Gas masks had been dumped earlier in the mountains. I kept my 45 revolver, ammunition and binoculars. The men collected a fowl and some rice before we pushed off through light jungle growth near the coast.

Continuing Southwards over difficult terrain with little for existence during Days Eight and Nine, our party was relieved to reach TOL Plantation on Henry Reid Bay in the early afternoon of Day Ten. Many troops were resting there in the huts along the foreshore. At the plantation house on the knoll I met Captain Nicholls, Lieuts Best and Lyons with a few men. During the afternoon a float plane circled low over the area - a sign that the Japanese were extending their operations along the island. Mr McGowan of the P.W.D. and some civilians left as night fell in a small pinnace. We thought it advisable to move on too.

So, at first light Day Eleven, four Engineers, Nicholls, Best and eight others began the slow process of crossing in canoes the three rivers at Wide Bay. Ted Best and my senior mechanist Jack Elton left in the first canoe to seek for some seaworthy vessel suitable for an escape, on the far side of the bay.

Eventually, the whole party crossed, then following the shore line around the bay, arrived at Luis the Filipino's bungalow near Kailai. Lui's family prepared for us a hearty meal and made their copra shed available to us for shelter that night. We met the Austrian Father from Kailai R.C. Mission who would not let soldiers stay at the Mission, however Potter and James obtained some rice from him. We also met Mr Gregory, District Officer for Rabaul, who, suffering from infected legs, was returning to Rabaul by canoe and intended to surrender to the Japanese.

Best and Elton returned from their search for a craft having found that a diesel launch "Bomba" had been burnt and sunk. A pinnace they located was out of action, the magneto drive gear being missing. Later, on jute bags for bedding, the party spent the

oblivious to mosquitoes and the odour of dried coconut.

Feeling lethargic next morning - Day Twelve, we were aroused into activity when a native labourer dashed into the shed shouting in Pidgin, "Masta, five fella pinnace e cum". From outside we saw five landing craft rounding Zungen Point and heard the sound of gunfire. Through my binoculars I could see the craft approaching TOL. This was tragic, as the men there were defenceless and in poor physical condition.

Kailai was no place to tarry, so gathering our belongings we left through the jungle growth at the rear of the property. Later a coastal path was found along which movement was made cautiously in single file until just on nightfall when KIEP Plantation was reached. The place being deserted, the manager's bungalow overlooking the sea was used to shelter the party overnight, our evening meal being some cooked rice and a drink of tea.

About three next morning, Day Thirteen, being uneasy after the landing at TOL, I found it difficult to sleep. I went on to the verandah to watch the sea in the moonlight, and pondered on the events of the past six weeks.

My memory went back to that other 1914/18 war when I had been a young infantryman. At Ypres, The Somme, Hindenburg Line and Passchendaele I had experienced all the horrors of war. But I had never thought we could lose.

Now I was with men beset on this sea-girt island. Behind was fifty miles of mountainous jungle to the north coast. Southwards, the sea-an enemy sea lane. Eastwards at Rabaul, countless Japanese with thirty warships. To the West, what awaited us? About the outcome of this war, I was having grave doubt.

To be continued.....

"OPENING OF OUTDOOR TRAINING FACILITY"

by

MAJ MARTIN THOMASON

After much sweat and toil by many members of Oakleigh Barracks, construction of our much needed outdoor training facility is nearing completion.

As this is one of our first major upgradings at Oakleigh, we will shortly formally open and begin to use the facility.

This training facility will be opened by the Barracks Commander, Colonel Ellis, at 1830 hrs on Friday 5 August 1994. After the opening ceremony, each Mess will be open for members use.

The Commander and PMC's look forward to your support on this occasion.😐

A SAPPER OFFICERS LAMENT

After I received my orders I proceeded swiftly to recce the area and made my appreciation listing all the factors, comparing the options with arguments for and against and finally produced the plan.

With maps and stereoscopes the O Group planned the flow of resources. Later I checked from time to time the adherence to the timetable.

But when you are up to your arse in alligators it is hard to remember that your first objective was to drain the swamp.

GENTLEMEN! A TOAST TO THE RSM

First a cautionary tale.

"For the sake of a nail a shoe was lost,
For the sake of a shoe a horse was lost
For the sake of a horse a battle was lost,
Because of the battle a king was lost."

The king lying in his dungeon awaiting his ransom reflects "If I want anything done properly I should do it myself". As he fell asleep he murmurs "I wonder whether the RSM (in an adjoining cell) trade tested the new sapper to blacksmith".

When the writer, in his salad days, was much wiser than now, he appreciated the British RSM. The penetrating voice, the brasso and button stick, blanko and webbing et al.

Advancing years has tempered my judgements and I now know to disregard the waxed moustache and see the steadiness of the ranks behind him as they meet each challenge.

The recent display of Sovereign's Banner on ANZAC Day was such an occasion to demonstrate the RSM's achievements and our pride in the result.

Stand up RSM.

Gentlemen I ask you to toast the RSM!

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR LOGISTIC SUPPORT FORCE - ENGINEERS

Warrant Officer Class One Tony Smith enlisted in the Army in October 1978. At the completion of his recruit and initial employment training, he was posted to the 18th Field Squadron. In 1981 he was promoted to the rank of Corporal and served 4 months with a Rifle Company in Butterworth.

In 1982, he was posted to the 1st Recruit Training Battalion as an Instructor. In 1985, he was posted to 7th Field Squadron as a Sergeant and then as a Staff Sergeant in 1987. In 1988 he was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer Class Two and posted to 1st Recruit Training Battalion as the Company Sergeant Major of Administrative Company. During that year he served with the 1st ASC United Nations Mine Clearance Training Team in Pakistan.

In 1990 he was the Company Sergeant Major of Charlie Company 1st Recruit Training Battalion and in 1991 was posted as the Squadron Sergeant Major of 18th Field Squadron.

In 1993 he was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer Class One and became the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Logistic Support Force Engineers. Warrant Officer Smith is married with one son.

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Schoolboy howler - Economic History.

In the days of the horse and buggy, Australia had a stable economy.

Colonel John Wertheimer RFD, FRMIT, B ECON, FIE AUST, FAIM.

Colonel Commandant (Southern Region) Royal Australian Engineers

Colonel Wertheimer graduated to the Royal Australian Engineers from the Royal Military College in December 1958. After completing a Fellowship Diploma (Civil Engineering) at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology he was posted to 21 Construction Squadron at Puckapunyal. During his three years with this unit he served in Wewak, New Guinea for twelve months and for other periods at Hobart, Queenscliff, Broadmeadows and Sydney. He was promoted to Captain in 1961.

During 1964 he was posted as Second in Command 7 Field Squadron at Enoggera, Queensland. He had a tour of duty with this unit in Sabah during the confrontation period with Indonesia in 1964.

Following the return of 7 Field Squadron to Australia, in 1965 he was posted to Popondetta, Papua firstly as a Captain and in 1966 as the District Works Engineer which was a Major's appointment within the 19 CRE Wks unit.

Major Wertheimer returned to Australia in 1967 to take command of 18 Field Squadron at Wacol, Queensland prior to training manoeuvres at Shoalwater Bay, Queensland and the move to the unit to the new Lavarack Barracks in Townsville. During 1969 he went to Vietnam as Officer Commanding, 17 Construction Squadron Group which during 1969 had detachments throughout Phuoc Tuoy Province with Headquarters at Nui Dat and a total strength of 430 sappers.

On return to Australia in 1970 he was posted as General Staff Officer at 6 Task Force. Following transfer to the Army Reserve in 1970 where he has served in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne until 1992.

Since 1970, he has worked on many major projects such as the Sydney Opera House, Reserve Bank Note Printing Works, Craigieburn, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Melbourne Central, Monash Medical Centre, Collins Place, National Rail and Automated Fare Collection, Melbourne.

Army Reserve appointments have included Commanding Officer 7 Field Engineer Regiment at Ringwood and Commander, 6 Engineer Group at Swan Street, Melbourne.

SAPPERS OF COMMANDO UNITS AIF WORLD WAR II

by
Pilot Officer Bill Goodall RTD

With the assistance of No 104 Military Mission from Great Britain which arrived in Australia late 1940, No 7 Infantry Training Centre was subsequently established in great secrecy (No 6 ITC was non existent) on Wilsons Promontory near Foster.

The objective was to raise commando/guerilla type units (also in other Dominions at that time) of the type which Great Britain was using with such success in the occupied countries of Europe.

Originally known as Independent Companies a total of eight were brought about. These were later on reformed into twelve Commando Squadrons and administered by three Divisional Regiments.

For each company, the war establishment provided for a total of 273 all ranks including 17 officers. The company structure comprised three platoons each of three sections utilised as half-sections with a headquarters including signallers and sappers.

Officers included one Engineer Officer. Other rank sappers comprised a Sergeant, Corporals, Lance Corporals and specialists such as fitters, instrument mechanic, carpenters and joiners and non specialists such as pioneers, totalling approximately fifteen.

Sapper training was highlighted by greater familiarity with explosives for demolition purposes (bridges) considered desirable for guerilla service in countries of occupied Europe, also a thorough knowledge of booby traps for both offensive and defensive purposes. At this time the newer types of weaponry, explosives and booby traps available were only released to the Australian Army in the first instance through these Independent Companies.

It was somewhat ironical that Colonel Sir Bernard Callivian, (a former principal of one of Australia's largest firms of Consulting Engineers) a one time OC, No 2 Independent Coy, did not hold the appointment of its Engineer Officer. A somewhat similar situation prevailed with the OC, No 4 Independent Coy.

The original intention was that Independent Coys would serve in the Middle East war zone.

With the increasing threat of war with Japan, the serious lack of available trained troops; No 1 and No 2 Coys were deployed primarily for the defence of RAAF advanced operational bases within the island chains to the North and North East of the Australian mainland. No 4 Coy relieved No 2 Coy at Timor. No 1 Coy was spread throughout Manus Island, New Ireland, Newttebrides and the Solomons. No 3 Coy initially garrisoned New Caledonia.

Following Japan's entry into the war during December 1941 other independent companies following their formation and training (and with time the redeveloped squadrons) also became very much involved in the South West Pacific campaigns. They supported infantry battalions and undertook commando tactics as specifically trained for; namely hit and run activities, intelligence gathering and undertaking reconnaissances. Protecting and supporting Coast Watchers was a feature on Bougainville.

It is emphasises that such sappers were firstly commandos and engineers in a secondary role. All were double volunteers, volunteered for the AIF and successful volunteers to the

Commando unit after a rigorous selection process invariably whilst serving with other units. Their unit colour patches are recognised by the double diamond profile, proudly displayed on ANZAC Day parades in the capital cities of the Commonwealth.

The interstate Commando Associations are umbrella organisations for all twelve units. Comradeship is very strong, as it was during the war years. Commandos were elite soldiers!!

Quite a number of Commando Unit histories have been published and copies are available from military type book shops. These provide the reader with a graphic account of how our Australian commandos, although outnumbered, outwitted and defeated highly motivated Japanese forces, invariably under appalling physical conditions in poor health, lack of adequate rations and inadequate clothing, equipment and fire support particularly in the period 1941-1943.

Service with Commando units is yet another example of sapper service during World War II. ✍

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ANSWERS TO KIDS CORNER PUZZLES

(Questions on Page 8)

1. A giraffe passing a window.
2. A koala climbing a tree.
3. A mexican frying an egg.
4. A scout on a bike.
5. A snake with an umbrella.
6. A snake falling down a well

NEW SAPPER ASSOCIATIONS

A get together is planned at Horsham for the weekend 25, 26 and 27 November 1994 for the ex members of 22 Construction Regiment (RAE). It will take the form of a BBQ on Friday night, a semi formal night on Saturday and a BBQ lunch on Sunday. Peter Bloor PO Box 101 Nurmukah 3636 phone (058) 621138 and Chick Martin 16 Pearl St, Horsham (053) 811576 are the organisers and they have sent out an impressive list of invitations to known members with a request to add to the list. They plan bowls, tennis, golf and the pokies. This Corps Newsletter applauds their efforts.

Members of the 91 Forestry Association marched on ANZAC Day with the Forestry Units and it is understood they helped with the banner. Their committee meets from time to time and a function is planned at the time of the Forestry Annual Camp.

Meanwhile back at Ringwood the committee of the 3 Div RAE Association is planning a function near Armistice Day.

RAE CORPS COMMITTEE SUBSCRIPTIONS

	ARA $	ARES $		ARA $	ARES $
SPR	15.00	10.00	CAPT	20.00	16.00
LCPL	15.00	10.00	MAJ	25.00	20.00
CPL	16.00	11.00	LTCOL	28.00	24.00
SGT	17.00	12.00	COL	33.00	28.00
SSGT	18.00	13.00	BRIG	39.00	33.00
WO2	20.00	15.00	MAJGEN	48.00	41.00
WO1	22.00	16.00	LTGEN	62.00	
LT	17.00	13.00	GEN	71.00	

DID YOU GO?

Royal Australian Engineers (M)

Sergeants' Mess

A DANCE

will be held in the

Engineer Depot, Batman Ave., East Melbourne

Saturday, July 25th 1936

at 8 p.m.

Tickets 2/-
PAY AT DOOR

C.Q.M.S. D. WALKER, Hon. Sec.

CORPS NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

The Corps Newsletter 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 Newsletter - Victoria
C/- Oakleigh Barracks
1318 North Road
OAKLEIGH SOUTH VIC 3167

.....

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.....

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

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

****** 0 ******

This Newsletter is edited by The Historical & Heritage Committee at the Oakleigh Barracks.

DAWN SERVICE - 25 APRIL 1994

At first light at the Oakleigh Depot on ANZAC Day about 500 people gathered for the ANZAC Service which was led by the Chaplain to LSF Engrs - Chaplain Michael Moody - assisted by the City of Caulfield Band.

After the official party, who consisted of: COL Wertheimer on behalf of all the Engineers, COL Ellis on behalf of LSF Engineers, Lord Mayor on behalf of the citizens of Oakleigh, OC 105 Fd Wksps on behalf of RAEME personnel, OC 1 Petrl Coy on behalf of Ordnance personnel.. They laid their wreaths at the Memorial Wall (see below) representatives of the various units and associations also paid their tribute, also laying their individual wreaths.

THE MEMORIAL WALL AT OAKLEIGH DEPOT

Top Row L to R

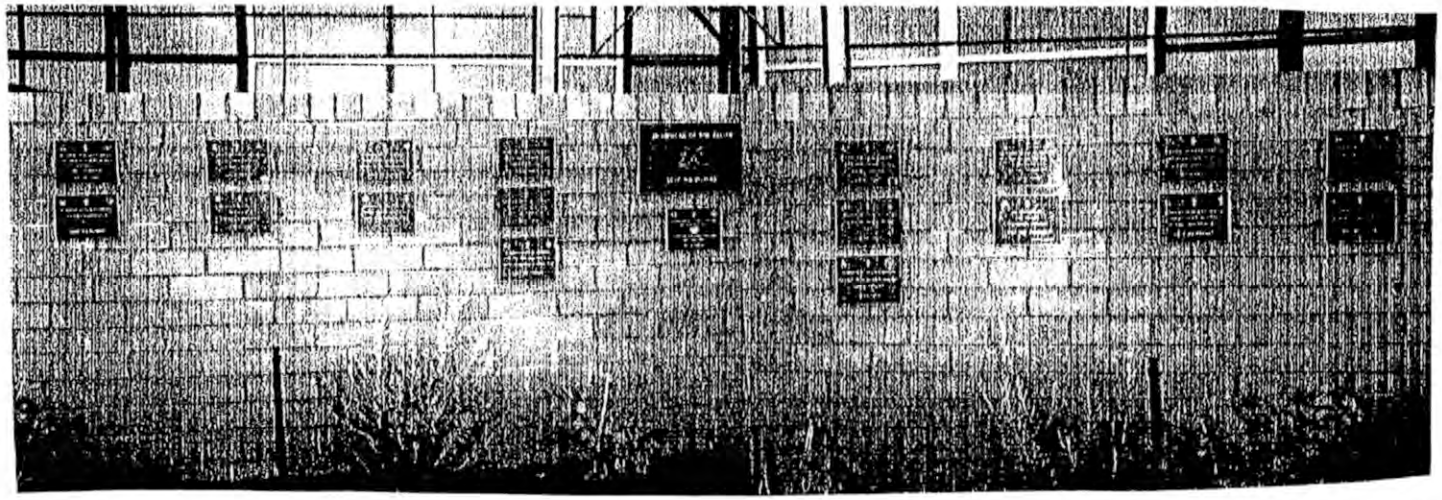
53 Fd Pk & 230 Lad	15 Fd Coy 3 Div	4 Fd Coy 3 & 5 Divs	2/4 Fd Sqn	2/8 Fd Coy	2/1 & 2/2 Fd Coy	2/6 Fd Coy 2/9 Fd Coy

Second Row L to R

10 Fd Coy	3 & 34 Fortress Coy	3 Bn Pnrs RAR Korea	2/10 Fd Coy	Old Sappers Ass	RAAOC RAEME	Ex Viet Sappers

Third Tow L to R

			14 Fd Pk B.C.F. Japan	9 Div Inc 2/3 Fd Coy 2/7, 2/13 2/16 2/24 Fd Pk	Rabaul Fortess Cy Lark Force	



GROSVENOR NIGHTS

PROGRAMME 1994

'Grosvenor', 55 Queens Rd Melbourne

Commencing 1800 hrs

SERIAL	DATE	SUBJECT	TOPIC	SPEAKER
1	28 Apr 94	*Debate*	For The Australian Army, Should major capital equipment procurement programmes be sustained at the expense of manpower development.	4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse, 5th/6th Royal Victoria Regiment.
2	5 May 94	*Leadership*	Leadership in The ARes.	BRIG R.A. Slater, AM, COMD 3 TRG GP.
3	12 May 94	*New Developments*	FFG Development	Transfield Ship Building - Presentation Team.
4	19 May 94	*Military History*	Mobilization - Overview	COL J. Wood, RFD, ED,
5	26 May 94	*Issues*	South Africa - Where to Now?	Mr M. Smith .Chairman - Australian/Southern Africa Business Assoc. (Vic Chapter)
6	2 Jun 94	*Leadership*	TBA	
7	9 Jun 94	*New Developments*	Army Developments	BRIG J.K. Campbell - Director, General Material Management, HQ LOG COMD.
8	16 Jun 94	*Military History*	Mobilization	Panel - TBA
9	23 Jun 24	*Issues*	Meet the Press	David Phelps. Media Communication Specialist. plus Panel of Experts.
10	30 Jun 94	*Debate*	Should the GRes continue to train it's Officer Corps?	TBA
11	7 Jul 94	*Leadership*	TBA	
12	14 Jul 94	*New Developments*	Battlefield Intelligence	TBA
13	21 Jul 94	*Military History*	Mobilization - The Gulf War and Now	Mr M. O'Connor - Australian Defence Association.
14	28 Jul 94	*Issues*	The Republic - To Be or Not to Be?	Mr A. Johnson - Australian Republican Committee.
15	4 Aug 94	*Leadership*	Weary Dunlop Memorial Lecture	TBA
16	11 Aug 94	*New Developments*	Logistics - The Gulf War Experience	TBA
17	18 Aug 94	*Military History*	Mobilization - German Reinforcement policy Experience	LTCOL J. Dixon. Renowned Movie Producer and Director.
18	25 Aug 94	*Issues*	British Naval Operations in the North Sea	LTCDR S. Turner - HQ Force Development.
19	1 Nov 94	*Leadership*	TBA	
20	8 Nov 94	*New Developments*	Air Defence of Northern Australia	TBA
21	15 Nov 94	*Military History*	Mobilization - Current and Future Developments for Australia	COL J. Wood, RFD, ED.
22	22 Nov 94	*Issues*	The Political Decision Making Process	Mr Malcolm Fraser - Former Australian Prime Minister.
23	29 Nov 94	*Debate*	The Defence White Paper	TBA

1994 RAE CORPS FUND SUBSCRIPTIONS

SERVING	ARA	ARES	SERVING	ARA	ARES
SPR/LCPL	15.00	10.00	MAJ	25.00	20.00
CPL	16.00	11.00	LTCOL	28.00	24.00
SGT	17.00	12.00	COL	33.00	28.00
SSGT	18.00	13.00	BRIG	39.00	33.00
WO2	20.00	15.00	MAJGEN	48.00	41.00
WO1	22.00	16.00	LTGEN	62.00	
LT	17.00	13.00	GEN	71.00	
CAPT	20.00	16.00			
RETIRED					
Officers	20.00		WO/SNCO	15.00	

These subscriptions are used to support RAE activities throughout Australia. An increasing emphasis is being placed on projects in Southern Region.

The most recent use of your funds in Victoria was to present awards at the recent IET course conducted at Newborough. Activities at all rank levels are supported. Ideas for use of funds should be forwarded to the RAE Corp Committee Southern Region in writing. Meetings are held 3 times a year, or as required. Your committee for 1994 is:

COL	E.J.	Wertheimer RFD
COL	H.R.	Ellis RFD
LTCOL	R.	Eastick MBE
LTCOL	I.M.	Stewart AM
MAJ	D.C.	Hughes
MAJ	D.	O'Sullivan
CAPT	A.	McVilly (Treasurer)
CAPT	M.D.	Renfrey (Secretary)
WO1	A.	Smith

* Subs are based on 20% of daily pay rate. Retired officers, and WO/SNCO's if they choose to contribute, need only pay up to $20.00 and $15.00 respectively. All payments are to be addressed to CAPT A. McVilly, Treasurer, RAE Corps Committee (SR) C/- Chief Engineer (Southern Victoria) Simpson Barracks, Macleod VIC 3085.

Please find enclosed a cheque/s for $_____ for the RAE Corps Subscriptions:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Telephone: