

3<sup>RD</sup> Military District

**R·A·E**

**NEWSLETTER**





## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

### 3RD MILITARY DISTRICT

#### CORPS NEWSLETTER

1. The Colonel Commandant, Major General K. D. Green OBE, ED and the Chief Engineer Colonel D. J. Macbride extend a warm welcome to you if you attended our Waterloo Dinner 1978, and if not we look forward to seeing you next year. The following paragraphs should be of interest to you all.

#### RAE Ball 1978

2. The RAE Ball is to be held at the Heidelberg Town Hall on Friday 8th September 1978 at 8 p.m. Cost \$15.00 per single.

3. Bookings can be arranged through your unit representatives or via the RAE Ball Secretary, Captain John Pritchard, AW Branch, HQ 3 MD, telephone 697 4237.

#### Corps Lanyard

4. The Corps Committee, after discussion with each Military District Sub Committee, has agreed to retain the tube lanyard colour code BCC 50 (Blue/Black) as the lanyard to be used by the Corps.

#### Holland Awards

5. 2 LT R. A. Burnell, 7 Fd Engr Regt (Ringwood) was one of four recipients of a John Holland Award for 1977.

6. Sir John Holland instituted the Awards (now \$200 each) to encourage young officers with outstanding potential who demonstrated ability and application at the start of their careers. It is intended that the Award be spent on military accoutrements of a lasting nature, or books, or a combination of the two.

#### RAE Corps History

##### 7. Volume 1.

The first of four volumes of the history of the Royal Australian Engineers (The Colonial Engineer, 1835 to 1902), written by Major General R. R. McNicoll CBE, is available at \$7.50, from the 3 MD Corps Sub Committee Secretary, Major Brian Hall, telephone 697 4227.

##### 8. Volume 2.

Major General McNicoll is at present compiling Volume 2, 1902 to 1919, which is due for publication late in 1979. The book should go to press next May.

9. This volume will be largely concerned with sapper activities in the first World War.
10. Primary sources are being used wherever possible. The difficulty is that much of the primary material known to exist has already been lodged in the library of the War Memorial in Canberra. This has ensured that it will be preserved, but it does not make for easy access. There appears to be no catalogue for manuscripts in the library, and even the card index is defective. Major General McNicoll is not hopeful of being able to retrieve personal papers of sappers from the War Memorial in time to use extracts in the History.
11. There remains the possibility that suitable material exists elsewhere. This could take the form of unpublished letters or diaries, or even articles which have been published in obscure books or periodicals.
12. Officers attending Corps dinners in 1978 are urged to give thought to the possible existence and whereabouts of this kind of material bearing upon the years 1914-1919.
13. Again, if anyone thinks they have suitable material, please telephone Major Brian Hall, on 697 4227.

#### Rolls of Honour

14. 1914-1918 RAE Roll of Honour containing the names of sappers killed in the 1914-18 war is lodged in the Kitchener Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral, London, as is a 1939-45 Honour Roll containing 1,161 names. The rolls are engraved on parchment, have an illuminated title page, and are bound in purple morocco with gold tooling.
15. Copies of these elaborately presented rolls are being made for display in the RAE Memorial Chapel at SME, Casula, and a new Volume III for the period 1946 onwards is being prepared. A display cabinet is being constructed, and an artist has been commissioned to sketch the RAE Memorial to provide a background motif for Volume III.
16. It is hoped that a Dedication Service will be held at SME, Casula, for the Honour Rolls and the 10th Anniversary of the Chapel on 6th August 1978.

#### Organisations

17. Shortly the re-raising instruction for 8 Fd Sqn is to be issued. This is an A Res squadron of 7 Fd Engr Regt at Ringwood. It is heartening to see this example of A Res recruiting success at a time when two squadrons in other states appear to have an uncertain future.

.../Personnel

Personnel

18. The strength of the Regular Army component of the Corps is 372 officers and 2,083 other ranks. This is an increase of 64 in the total for this time last year. At present the Corps strength is about 100 over the manpower target but the trend is for a gradual reduction of this surplus.

Personalities

19. Retirement

BRIG I. G. C. Gilmore, retired in Apr 78 to become Director of the Counter Disaster College at Mt Macedon.

20. Promotion to BRIG

COL P. C. Gration is to be promoted in Jul 78.

21. Promotion to COL

COL F. J. Cross to CE, FF Comd.  
COL B. G. Florence to Comdt, OCS.  
COL J. Stein to CE, 1 MD.  
COL D. M. Francis to C of S, PNGDF.  
COL N. Sharpe to CE, 2 MD.