

Night of Terror

There is a disclaimer on this poem which says " Any resemblance to persons living or existing is purely coincidental, unintentional and all your fault.

I sit alone in the quiet house
And the night outside is still,
Not even a dog to mournfully howl
At the moon as it tops the hill.

And I think of the many nights I've spent
And the slow unhappy tears,
And of hope so many times deferred
In the long and lonely years.

A creaking board brings my senses alert
I feel a foreboding of danger,
My eyes slowly turn and I shudder at the sight
Of the hideous face of the stranger.

My blood turns to ice and I cannot move
I stare at the horrible grin,
The bloodshot eyes in that evil face
The saliva that drools from his chin.

But suddenly then, as I pray for death
In a terror I cannot deny,
Some memory stirs from the distant past
At the lecherous light in his eyes.

No stanger is this who comes to my door
But one that I once knew best,
The long lost husband I'd mourned as gone
COME HOME FROM THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

Placed in the original Horse's Mouth by Mrs. Ian Turner
and believed to be written by Cfn Shane Layt

Courtesy of the original Horse's Mouth and the Sergeants' Mess, Perth
Workshop Company.



The Horse's Mouth

The Newsletter of the **RAEME Association** **of WA (Inc.)**

Autumn 2002

This newsletter is the official journal of the **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)**. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, except for January, at 7.00pm, ANZAC House, 28 St. George's Terrace, Perth. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

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DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 22nd of May 2002.

DISCLAIMER

Thoughts expressed in articles in THE HORSE'S MOUTH are those held by the writer/contributors and not necessarily those of the Association.

President's Report

Again sitting at my desk and thinking that the Association's fifth year is nearly a reality. We still have a dedicated group around us that will persist with hard work and consisted energy to keep the organisation together. We have come a long way and we are still going in the right direction, but we have to come now to a decision again to elect a new committee at our AGM to be held next month. We have some good stalwarts regularly attending our meetings, but we need more back up from other members to come to aid of our hard working committee, so that we can carry on at

full steam for the next five years.

We shall have to do some deep thinking so that we can run and organise some family functions before the summer weather leaves us. So I ask all members to put their thinking caps on and let us have some suggestions, so that we can go to work and have some fun. We have also been asked by one of our own members to give him a hand to do some garden work, and this possibly be done on a weekend, we can have a bit of fun whilst we are doing a job for one of our mates. He has promised he will come to the party with the eats and maybe even a coldie on

Hell."

"Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?"

"No. I can see how you might think so, but we're just happy that they screen out the folks who'll leave their best friends behind."

Punishment

A C-141A Starlifter had been delayed for takeoff for over an hour at Thule Air Force Base, Greenland, because it's sewage container had not been pumped out. An Airman meandered up to the aircraft with the containment pump, fiddled around for a while, then got ready to leave.

The young Captain who was the aircraft commander confronted the Airman, and stated, "You have caused me to be 2 hours late for my takeoff. I'll see that you are not only reprimanded, but punished as well!"

The young Airman smiled and said, "Sir, with all due respect..., I have no stripes, I'm stationed at Thule, Greenland, it's 20 degrees below zero, and I'm pumping shit out of an airplane. Just what kind of punishment did you have in mind?"

The Accountant

A businessman was interviewing applicants for the position of divisional manager. He devised a simple test to select the most suitable person for the job. He asked each applicant the question, "What is two and two?"

The first interviewee was a journalist. His answer was "22." The second applicant was an engineer. He pulled out a calculator and showed the answer to be between 3.999 and 4.001. The

next person was a lawyer. He stated that in the case of Jenkins v. Commr of Stamp Duties (Qld), 2 and 2 was proven to be 4.

The last applicant was an accountant. The businessman asked him, "How much is 2 and 2?" The accountant to be got up from his chair, went over to the door, closed it then came back and sat down, leaned across the desk and said in a low voice, "How much do you want it to be?"

He got the job.

Beer

I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day.

—Frank Sinatra

An intelligent man is sometimes forced to be drunk to spend time with fools.
—Ernest Hemingway

A woman drove me to drink and I didn't even have the decency to thank her.
—W.C. Fields

When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.
—Henny Youngman

24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence?
—Stephen Wright

Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.
—Benjamin Franklin

Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza.
—Dave Barry

To some its a six-pack, to me it's a Support Group

than settle, your stomach.

19. You go to the chemist for ibuprofen and antacids, not condoms and pregnancy test kits.

20. A \$4.00 bottle of wine is no longer 'pretty good stuff.'

21. You actually eat breakfast foods at breakfast time.

22. "I just can't drink the way I used to," replaces "I'm never going to drink that much again."

23. Over 90% of the time you spend in front of a computer is for real work.

24. You don't drink at home to save money before going to a bar.

25. You read this entire list looking for one sign that doesn't apply to you!

Dead?????

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead.

He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight. When he was standing before it, he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother of pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold.

He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side. When he was close enough, he called out, "Excuse me, where are we?"

"This is Heaven, sir," the man answered.

"Wow! Would you happen to have some water?" the man asked.

"Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll

have some ice water brought right up."

The man gestured, and the gate began to open.

"Can my friend," gesturing toward his dog, "come in, too?" the traveler asked.

"I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets."

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog.

After another long walk, and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road, which led through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

"Excuse me!" he called to the reader. "Do you have any water?"

"Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there." The man pointed to a place that couldn't be seen from outside the gate. "Come on in."

"How about my friend here?" the traveler gestured to the dog.

"There should be a bowl by the pump." They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveler filled the bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog.

When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree waiting for them.

"What do you call this place?" the traveler asked.

"This is Heaven," was the answer.

"Well, that's confusing," the traveler said. "The man down the road said that was Heaven, too."

"Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's

the side, of course that's if you think this could be a fun project, we should have a look at this.

There are quite a number of things some of our members have been up to unwanted in most cases but necessary, i.e. Your president spent another week in hospital with something that even the doctors were perplexed about but it all came good. The Secretary is sporting a new knee and he told me that he will be playing football again soon, as soon he gets rid of those damned crutches.

Anyhow I would like to thank all the diehards who have consistently attended our meetings and did all the hard yakka during this the fourth year and I hope the next committee will receive the same consideration.

John Curtis and myself are still enjoying the volunteer welfare work with the Department of Veterans Affairs and if you know of anyone requiring assistance do not hesitate to contact your own welfare officers.

In closing, let's see more of the members at our regular meetings

John Klein

Arte et Marte

Corps History in Western Australia

Plans are being made to try to record as much of the History of the Corps in Western Australia as possible.

To make this project a success, the committee of the Association would like to hear from people who are willing to voice record other members of the Corps. We would also like to hear from the "Old n' Bold" who feel that they could have an input into this worthwhile project.

The Association may be seeking a grant to record our history. But we need to get an indication about who is interested in helping. The grant will pay for such things as recorders and tapes. The recorders and tapes will, in turn, be loaned to the researchers. Unfortunately, incidentals like petrol and wear and tear on cars cannot be included.

For those interested in helping to record oral histories, we will provide a list of questions to be asked that will guide you into the information needed.

For those willing to be interviewed, there will be no intrusion into your private lives except where you feel that it is relevant to the Corps History. A recording session could take up to two hours in your own home. All that is needed is to answer the questions asked and then as a final point offer any information that you feel is important to the history of the Corps in western Australia.

We would also be looking for anybody who is prepared to listen to these tapes and transfer them into the written word.

When the planned project is finished, copies will be given to those with an interest in the Corps in Western Australia. For example, the Army Museum at Fremantle; the Department of Veteran's Affairs, the Army Historical Research Group, or the Australian War Memorial. We may even have enough to assemble the information into a book.

This is not a project that will be finished in 5 minutes. It can take up to 2 years to get to an advanced stage so that we can show some real results.

If you want further information about this project contact John Curtis on 9271 4520 (curtisj@bigpond.com) or John Klein on 9279 3080 (artarmwo2@bigpond.com).

Association Honorary Physician

At a committee meeting in February, the committee passed a motion inviting Dr. Michael Daly to become the Honorary Physician of the Association.

Michael is very well known among the Veteran Community as being a hard working and very caring person. There are a lot of members of this Association who are patients of Michael's. Some come from as far away as Armidale, when Michael's surgery is in Bedford. People who travel that far to see a doctor shows the implicate faith that they have in him.

Anyway Michael has written to the Association and this is his letter.

“ It is with a great deal of delight and pleasure that I accept the position of Honorary Physician to the RAEME Association of WA.

I have noted the somewhat onerous tasks which befall the holder of such an office and will take inspiration from your members in my attempts to fulfil these duties.

Please convey my thanks to the committee for considering me and I consider it a great honour to be asked. On a somewhat sadder note I would mention that this ANZAC Day I have already a prior commitment but hope to catch up with you all in the near future.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Michael P. DALY.

Michael, we would like to welcome you into the Association as our Honorary Physician and we hope that you will have a lasting relationship with us. In the Army we are nicknamed Spanners. So from hence forth you will be a Spanner Doctor.

Army Takes Action on Illegal Drug Use

Military Police in conjunction with New South Wales Police conducted a search for illicit drugs at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney on Tuesday, 12 February 2002.

Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Cosgrove said, “Military Police and New South Wales Police moved quickly to set up Tuesday's operation after allegations of drug use within 3 RAR were raised from within the unit. Any allegations of drug use within the Australian Army are taken very seriously,” LTGEN Cosgrove said.

As a result of this and an earlier investigation, the New South Wales Police have charged two soldiers. Investigations into others are continuing.

It is alleged that a small number of soldiers in the unit have used illicit and performance enhancing drugs. As a result of the current investigations, if individuals do have a case to answer, they may face the military justice system or civil prosecutions.

Chief of Army LTGEN Cosgrove said that Defence has a zero tolerance policy to the use of illegal drugs and it is completely unacceptable in the Australian Army.

The Defence policy on illegal drugs is quite clear and states:

Involvement with illegal drugs by members of the ADF is not condoned. Disciplinary and/or administrative action that may result in termination of a member's appointment or discharge are to be initiated against any member involved with illegal drugs.

“Our people must feel safe in their working environment and be able to get on with their jobs. They deserve that

Life According to Perry

Here is the latest offering from our own home spun Philosopher Perry.

Company Policy

Start with a cage containing five monkeys. Inside the cage, hang a banana on a string and place a set of stairs under it. Before long, a monkey will go to the stairs and start to climb towards the banana. As soon as he touches the stairs, spray all of the other monkeys with cold water.

After a while, another monkey makes an attempt with the same result -all the other monkeys are sprayed with cold water. Pretty soon, when another monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will try to prevent it. Now, put away the cold water. Remove one monkey from the cage and replace it with a new one.

The new monkey sees the banana and wants to climb the stairs. To his surprise and horror, all of the other monkeys attack him. After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs, he will be assaulted.

Next, remove another of the original five monkeys and replace it with a new one. The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm! Likewise, replace a third original monkey with a new one, then a fourth, then the fifth. Every time the newest monkey takes to the stairs, he is attacked. Most of the monkeys that are beating him have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs or why they are participating in the beating of the newest monkey.

After replacing all the original monkeys, none of the remaining monkeys have ever been sprayed with cold water. Nevertheless, no monkey ever again approaches the stairs to try for the

banana. Why not? Because as far as they know that's the way it's always been done around here.

And that, my friends, is how company policy begins!

Signs That You've Grown Up

1. Your potted plants are alive. And you can't smoke a single one of them.
2. Having sex in a single bed is absurd.
3. You keep more food than alcohol in the fridge.
4. 6:00am is when you get up, not when you go to sleep.
5. You hear your favourite song on an elevator.
6. You carry an umbrella. You watch the Weather Channel.
7. Your friends marry and divorce instead of hookup and breakup.
8. You go from 130 days of vacation time to 7.
9. Jeans and a sweater no longer qualify as 'dressed up.'
10. You're the one calling the police because those darn kids next door don't know how to turn down the stereo.
11. Older relatives feel comfortable telling sex jokes around you.
12. You don't know what time Taco Bell closes anymore.
13. Your car insurance goes down and your car payments go up.
14. You feed your dog Science Diet instead of McDonald's.
15. Sleeping on the couch makes your back hurt.
16. You no longer take naps from noon to 6:00pm.
17. Dinner and a movie - The whole date instead of the beginning of one.
18. Eating a basket of chicken wings at 3:00am would severely upset, rather

those shows meant to lonely GI's so far from home.

Ann Margaret came out looking as beautiful as ever and, as 2nd in line, it was soon Richard's turn. He presented the book for her signature and then took out the photo. When he did, there were many shouts from the employees that she would not sign it. Richard said, "I understand. I just wanted her to see it".

She took one look at the photo, tears welled up in her eyes and she said, "This is one of my gentlemen from Vietnam and I most certainly will sign his photo. I know what these men did for their country and I always have time for "my gentlemen". With that, she pulled Richard across the table and planted a big kiss on him. She then made quite a do about the bravery of the young men she met over the years, how much she admired them, and how much she appreciated them. There weren't too many dry eyes among those close enough to hear. She then posed for pictures and acted as if he was the only one there.

Later at dinner, Richard was very quiet. When I asked if he'd like to talk about it, my big strong husband broke down in tears.

"That's the first time anyone ever thanked me for my time in the Army", he said.

Richard, like many others, came home to people who spit on him and shouted ugly things at him. That night was a turning point for him. He walked a little straighter and, for the first time in years, was proud to have been a Vet. I'll never forget Ann Margaret for her graciousness and how much that small act of kindness meant to my husband.

I now make it a point to say Thank You to every person I come across who served in our Armed Forces. Freedom

does not come cheap and I am grateful for all those who have served their country.

The Runaway

This middle aged man was going through his mid-life crisis so he went out and bought him a new bright red Porsche. So he decided to take his new Porsche on a test drive down the interstate one day.

He got up to about 85 mph and all of a sudden he saw this highway patrolman with his blue lights and siren blaring coming toward him. He decided he and his new Porsche would outrun the officer. So the man sped up to 95 mph, and then to 105 mph, but the patrolman was still coming.

The man finally came to his senses and said to himself, "This is crazy, I could go to jail for this," so he pulled over. The patrolman came to the car and told the man, "It has been a long day and I am tired. If you can give me an excuse no one else has ever given me I will let you go."

So the man told the officer, "Last night my wife ran off with a patrolman and when I seen you chasing me I thought you were trying to bring her back."

The officer looked at the man and said, "Have a nice day"

Quotable Quote

The best quote of the Afghanistan war so far came from George W. Bush's meeting with the four senators from New York and Virginia (the two states that came under attack). "When I take action", said the President, "I'm not gonna fire a \$2 million missile at a \$10 empty tent and hit a camel in the butt. It's going to be decisive strike".

and they should expect it. They are performing a difficult and demanding task.

"I would like to encourage anyone who may have allegations of illicit drug use within the Australian Army to come forward," LTGEN Cosgrove said.

Congratulations

Congratulations **WO1 Malcolm Baird** for the award of the Conspicuous Service Medal. WO1 Baird won the CSM for "Outstanding service in the performance of duty as the ASM of 5 Aviation Regiment."

Soldiers Injured In Fire At Holsworthy

Two soldiers based at Holsworthy barracks were seriously injured in a fire on the veranda of the accommodation block on the evening of Wednesday 20 February.

One soldier received burns to his arms, legs and torso and was airlifted to the Royal North Shore Burns Unit. The soldier is reported to be in a critical condition.

The second soldier received burns to his legs and arms and was taken to Liverpool Hospital. The soldier is reported to be in a satisfactory condition.

The soldiers are from the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (4RAR).

Military Police in conjunction with the NSW Police are investigating the incident.

New Centre for Military and Veterans Health

Some of Australia's leading university medical schools and teaching hospitals

are developing proposals to establish a new centre to support improved health and well-being among Australian Defence Force members and veterans, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Danna Vale, said today.

Minister Vale said three consortia of universities and teaching hospitals have been invited to submit proposals for the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health (CMVH).

They include:

- *University of Queensland with Adelaide University and the Menzies School of Health Research
- *Sydney University with University of New South Wales and University of Western Sydney
- *Monash University and Melbourne University

"The centre for Military and Veterans' Health will provide a cost-effective, national base of expertise in military health to maintain and enhance the health, fitness and deployability of members of the Australian Defence Force," Minister Vale said.

"It will be based on a three-way collaboration between the Defence Health Service, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and a pre-eminent university and its allied teaching hospitals. "The Department of Veterans' Affairs and Defence are working closely to better meet the health care needs of ADF members both during and after their service.

"The new centre will provide a valuable opportunity for joint research into the impacts of military service on the health of serving members and veterans."

The Minister said the centre would coordinate professional development and training for members of the Defence Health Service.

"The centre will also provide the Defence Health Service with access to a comprehensive, integrated range of health and related information systems," she said.

"Access to telemedicine will become increasingly important for the ADF in the field.

"The technology available through the CMVH will enable medical officers deployed with service personnel to show a particular condition electronically to special staff at the CMVH, to get the best possible diagnosis and treatment."

Minister Vale said a decision on the successful consortium to develop the new centre was expected later this year.

Latest generation Hercules aircraft operational for Air Force

The fleet of twelve new generation C-130J Hercules aircraft were formally accepted into operational service by the Chief of the Air Force, Air Marshall Angus Houston, at a ceremony today at RAAF Base Richmond in New South Wales.

Prior to the Air Force's acceptance of the fleet into service, the Defence Materiel Organisation's Head of Aerospace Systems Division, Air Vice-Marshal Ray Conroy, formally accepted the C-130 J in its final contracted configuration from the prime contractor, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company.

"The C-130J represents a quantum leap in technology over its predecessors with a head up display and glass cockpit, new computer controlled engines and six-bladed composite propellers, a fully integrated digital avionics system and a computer based maintenance support system," Air Vice-Marshal Conroy said.

The new capabilities offered by the C-130J Hercules have been rigorously tested over the last two years.

The new design offers improved performance in areas such as payload capacity, cruise speed, endurance and take-off distance. The Australian configuration C-130J is a 'stretched' version, nearly 5 metres longer than its predecessors, providing greater cargo volume capacity.

"This exciting new platform provides the Australian Defence Force with improved airlift reliability and availability, and will meet the Air Force's strategic and tactical airlift requirements well into the twenty first century," Air Vice-Marshal Conroy said.

"Forty years ago, the Air Force became the first international customer to take delivery of the C-130A Hercules aircraft with subsequent purchases of the E and H models.

"The 'Hercs' proved to be especially suited to our unique environment and geographical demands, and are tough and effective workhorses with an impressive safety record. The C-130J is set to continue the tradition."

For those who have spent many hours flying in this Hercules' noisy predecessors, I wonder if it is just as noisy? (Ed.)

Army vehicle accident near Townsville

On behalf of the Australian government I offer my deepest sympathy to the family of a soldier killed in an accident near Townsville today.

Defence Minister Robert Hill has also extended his condolences to the family.

The soldier, from B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, based

There is Justice After All

What a glorious difference between this lady and Jane (Hanoi Jane) Fonda!

There is Justice - Ann Margaret and the Vietnam Vet.

Received this one from a friend and thought it worth forwarding.

Richard, (my husband), never really talked a lot about his time in Vietnam other than he had been shot by a sniper. However, he had a rather grainy, 8 x 10 black & white photo he had taken at a USO show of Ann Margaret with Bob Hope in the background that was one of his treasures.

A few years ago, Ann Margaret was doing a book signing at a local bookstore. Richard wanted to see if he could get her to sign the treasured photo, so he arrived at the bookstore at 12 o'clock for the 7:30 signing. When I got there after work, the line went all the way around the bookstore, circled the parking lot, and disappeared behind a parking garage.

Before her appearance, bookstore employees announced that she would sign only her book and no memorabilia would be permitted. Richard was disappointed, but wanted to show her the photo and let her know how much

Q: What's the difference between a fighter pilot and a jet engine?

A: A jet engine stops whining when the plane shuts down.

Three Marines were walking through the forest when they came upon a set of tracks. The first Marine said, "Those are deer tracks." The second Marine said, "No, those are elk tracks." The third Marine said "You're both wrong, those are moose tracks." The Marines were still arguing when the train hit them.

A Navy Chief and an Admiral were sitting in the barbershop. They were both just getting finished with their shaves-the barbers were reaching for some after-shave to slap on their faces. The admiral shouted, "Hey, don't put that stuff on me! My wife will think I've been in a whorehouse!" The chief turned to his barber and said, "Go ahead and put it on. My wife doesn't know what the inside of a whorehouse smells like."

"Well," snarled the tough old Navy Chief to the bewildered seaman. "I suppose after you get discharged from the Navy, you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and pee on my grave." "Not me, Chief!" the Seaman replied. "Once I get out of the Navy, I'm never going to stand in line again!"

Can We Help You

The RAEME Association is concerned about the welfare of RAEME members in Western Australia, Particularly if they have a disability or getting a bit on the elderly side. We would like to set up a practical help and support group who can provide a voluntary service such as gardening, home help, transport, or assistance with shopping, etc.

So, if you are fit and healthy and are willing to give a little of your time to help other members of the Corps, contact the Secretary and let him know. We will maintain a database of helpers and expertise.

If you need assistance because of age or infirmity, let us know. We will be only too glad to make sure that you have the help you need. And the best part of it is that it is all part of the service.

won't nearly be long enough or often enough, but take what you can get and be thankful for it.

You may have picked up on the fact that I disagree with most of the points you present in your op-ed piece. But, tomorrow from KABUL, I will defend to the death your right to say it.

You see, I am an American fighting man, a guarantor of your First Amendment rights and every other right you cherish.

On a daily basis, my brother and sister soldiers worldwide ensure that you and people like you can thumb your collective nose at us, all on a salary that is nothing short of pitiful and under conditions that would make most people cringe.

We hemorrhage our best and brightest into the private sector because we can't offer the stability and pay of civilian companies. And you, Ms. Williams, have the gall to say that we make more than we deserve?

Rubbish!

A1C Michael Bragg, Hill AFB AFNCC
(Just goes to show that the average serviceman is not appreciated anywhere we go. Is Australia like this? Ed)

Oldies but Goodies. Jim's little offering this time is a good natured swipe at the other services. Something we all like to do from time to time. It shows that the military sense of humour is alive and well with our American Brothers in Arms. Here are his offerings.

The Air Force!!!!

During training exercises, the lieutenant who was driving down a muddy back road encountered another car stuck in the mud with a red-faced colonel at the wheel. "Your jeep stuck, sir?" asked

the lieutenant as pulled alongside. "Nope," replied the colonel, coming over and handing him the keys, "Yours is."

Having just moved into his new office, a pompous, new colonel was sitting at his desk when an airman knocked on the door. Conscious of his new position, the colonel quickly picked up the phone, told the airman to enter, then said into the phone, Yes, General, I'll be seeing him this afternoon and I'll pass along your message. In the meantime, thank you for your good wishes, sir. "Feeling as though he had sufficiently impressed the young enlisted man, he asked, What do you want?" "Nothing important, sir," the airman replied, "I'm just here to hook up your telephone."

On some air bases the Air Force is on one side of the field and civilian aircraft use the other side of the field, with the control tower in the middle. One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, "What time is it?" The tower responded, "Who is calling?" The aircraft replied, "What difference does it make?" The tower replied "It makes a lot of difference. If it is an American Airlines flight, it is 3 o'clock. If it is an Air Force plane, it is 1500 hours. If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells. If it is an Army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3. If it is a Marine Corps aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon."

Officer: Soldier, do you have change for a dollar?

Soldier: Sure, buddy.

Officer: That's no way to address an officer! Now let's try it again.

Officer: Do you have change for a dollar?

Soldier: No, SIR!

Q: How do you know if there is a fighter pilot at your party?

A: He'll tell you.

Q: What's the difference between God and fighter pilots?

A: God doesn't think he's a fighter pilot.

Majura Training Area Upgrade

Defence Minister opens new Australian-designed shooting range

Defence Minister Robert Hill today officially opened the new electronic range system at the Majura Marksmanship Training Range (MTR).

Senator Hill said the system would provide the Majura Range with state-of-the-art marksmanship facilities at a cost of \$2 million.

"It's important that our personnel are trained to the highest standard and this new system will help make that happen," Senator Hill said.

"The Australian designed, manufactured and installed computer controller target systems are provided by ADI Live Fire Target Systems from Albury, NSW.

"These new Australian-developed facilities are the first stage in an upgrade of nation wide MTRs that will provide the Australian Defence Force with the best possible training in marksmanship by international standards."

The new facilities are to be installed at Singleton in New South Wales and at Greenbank and Purga in Queensland by 30 June this year.

Defence's Corporate Services and Infrastructure Group are upgrading the facilities.

"These Training Ranges are used to practice, assess and validate basic shooting skills for military personnel and most of Defence small-arms weapons live firing is done on these ranges.

"Changing requirements, such as shooting with night-vision equipment and the poor reliability of old target equipment highlighted the need for new systems.

"Defence recognises that effective live firing of personal weapons is an

at Lavarack Barracks, was killed when an armoured personnel carrier (APC) he was travelling in overturned at Hervey Range Road, 40km west of the city.

Another soldier received minor injuries in the accident, and is in Townsville General Hospital.

A full and thorough investigation into the cause of the accident has begun.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the soldier's family at this time and they can be assured of receiving a full range of support and assistance.

The past few days have been particularly difficult for all servicemen and women and their families. This has served to remind us of the unique nature of Australian Defence Force service and the commitment of the men and women who serve our nation with pride.



Supreme Kitchens

If you want a first class job done on any of your kitchen furniture, call Supreme Kitchens and be very pleasantly surprised at the cost.

Supreme Kitchens are situated at 2 Cullen Street Bayswater. Call Don Gunn on 9272 4422, and ask for a quote.

Don is a committee member of the Association.

essential skill for all soldiers and that the facilities for learning and practicing this skill must be world-class.”

Review of Veterans’ Entitlements

Terms of Reference - Review of Veterans’ Eligibility Provisions and Benefits for Totally and Permanently Incapacitated and Other Veteran Disability Pensioners

Background

Representations have been made to the Government concerning access to and perceived anomalies with eligibility, including Qualifying Service, provisions under the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA). Organisations making these representations include some World War II veterans who do not have Qualifying Service, veterans of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan, participants of the British atomic testing in Australia and servicemen engaged in counter terrorist and special recovery teams.

Additionally, a number of Ex-Service Organisations have expressed concern regarding the adequacy of benefits for veterans receiving veterans’ disability pension, at the Special Rate (TPI) and some other levels.

The Government has agreed that these matters will be considered by an independent review.

Role

The committee will conduct a review into the issues specified in this Terms of Reference.

Membership

The committee will be chaired by Hon Justice John Clarke QC and the other members will be Air Marshal Douglas Riding AO DFC and Dr David Rosalky.

Terms of Reference

The Government is committed to

providing fair, consistent and appropriate benefits to Australia’s veterans.

Against this background, the committee will review and make recommendations on:

1. the current policy relating to eligibility for access to VEA benefits and Qualifying Service under the VEA; and
2. the benefits available to disability compensation pensioners under the VEA.

The review will:

Access to VEA benefits and Qualifying Service

- Consider the historical context and current interpretation of the provisions for Qualifying Service having regard to relevant Parliamentary statements and the position reached by the Courts;

- Consider perceived anomalies with eligibility for access to VEA benefits and Qualifying Service that might be raised by some World War II veterans, veterans of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan, Australian participants in British Atomic testing in Australia, Australian service personnel engaged in counter terrorist and special recovery training and other interested parties; and

- Recommend possible changes to address any anomalies and to facilitate the equitable and efficient administration of the VEA.

Special Rate and other Rates of Disability Pensions

- Document and examine past and current disability compensation pension and related benefits available to veterans under the VEA;

- Consider submissions made by interested parties as to the structure and appropriateness of those pensions and benefits;

vaunted overpayment is going, because as far as I can tell, it disappears every month between DFAS (The Defense Finance and Accounting Service) and my bank account. Checking my latest leave and earnings statement (LES), I see that I make \$1,117.80, before taxes. After taxes, I take home \$874.20. When I run that through Windows’ Calculator, I come up with an annual salary of \$13,413.60 before taxes, and \$10,490.40 after. I work in the Air Force Network Control Center (AFNCC), where I am part of the team responsible for the administration of a 5,000-host computer network. I am involved with infrastructure segments, specifically with Cisco Systems equipment. A quick check under jobs for Network Technicians in the Washington, D.C. area reveals a position in my career field, requiring three years experience with my job. Amazingly, this job does NOT pay \$13,413.60 a year, nor does it pay less than this. No, this job is being offered at \$70,000 to \$80,000 per annum. I’m sure you can draw the obvious conclusions.

Also, you tout increases to Basic Allowance for Housing and Basic Allowance for Subsistence (housing and food allowances, respectively) as being a further boon to an already overcompensated force. Again, I’m curious as to where this money has gone, as BAH and BAS were both slashed 15% in the Hill AFB area effective in January 2000.

Given the tenor of your column, I would assume that you have NEVER had the

pleasure of serving your country in her armed forces. Before you take it upon yourself to once more castigate congressional and DOD leadership for attempting to get the families in the military’s lowest pay brackets off AFDC, WIC, and food stamps, I suggest that you join a group of deploying soldiers headed for AFGHANISTAN, I leave the choice of service branch up to you. Whatever choice you make, though, opt for the SIX month rotation: it will guarantee you the longest possible time away from your family and friends, thus giving you full “deployment experience”.

As your group prepares to board the plane, make sure to note the spouses and children who are saying good-bye to their loved ones. Also take care to note that several families are still unsure of how they’ll be able to make ends meet while the primary breadwinner is gone-obviously they’ve been squandering the vast piles of cash the DOD has been giving them.

Try to deploy over a major holiday; Christmas and Thanksgiving are perennial favorites. And when you’re actually over there, sitting in a DFP (Defensive Fire Position, the modern-day foxhole), shivering against the cold desert night, and the flight sergeant tells you that there aren’t enough people on shift to relieve you for chow, remember this: trade whatever MRE (meal-ready-to-eat) you manage to get for the tuna noodle casserole or cheese tortellini, and add Tabasco to everything, this gives some flavor. Talk to your loved ones as often as you are permitted; it

Don’t Forget

The HORSE’S MOUTH welcomes any correspondence, letters to the Editor, moans or groans. If you have a point of view, let us know. You can send contributions to the Editor at the address on page 2. Remember that you are responsible for what you write. The journal has a disclaimer, also on page 2. So let’s have the articles and points of view that are just busting to get out.

by tidal action from the next two or three high tides.

This hazardous operation was performed in conjunction with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland Department of Transport. Close liaison ensured the operation was safe and successful.

Jim's Life in the US

Jim has come up with a couple of good articles for us in this issue. They are well and truly worth reading.

What a difference 14 Years Makes

Anyone remember this??

It was 1987!

At a lecture the other day they played an old news video of Lt. Col. Oliver North testifying at the Iran-Contra hearings during the Reagan Administration.

There was Ollie in front of God and country getting the third degree, but what he said was stunning! He was being drilled by some senator; "Did you not recently spend close to \$60,000 for a home security system?"

Ollie replied, "Yes, I did, Sir."

The senator continued, trying to get a laugh out of the audience, "Isn't that just a little excessive?"

"No, sir," continued Ollie.

"No? And why not?" the senator asked.

"Because the lives of my family and I were threatened, sir"

"Threatened? By whom?" the senator questioned.

"By a terrorist, sir" Ollie answered.

"Terrorist? What terrorist could possibly scare you that much?"

"His name is Osama bin Laden, sir" Ollie replied.

At this point the senator tried to repeat the name, but couldn't pronounce it,

which most people back then probably couldn't. A couple of people laughed at the attempt. Then the senator continued. "Why are you so afraid of this man?" the senator asked.

"Because, sir, he is the most evil person alive that I know of", Ollie answered.

"And what do you recommend we do about him?" asked the senator.

"Well, sir, if it was up to me, I would recommend that an assassin team be formed to eliminate him and his men from the face of the earth."

The senator disagreed with this approach, and that was all that was shown of the clip.

(If anyone is interested, the senator was none other than Al Gore.)

US Military Pay

On 12 November, Ms Cindy Williams (from the Laverne and Shirley TV show) wrote a piece for the Washington Times denouncing the pay raise(s) coming service members' way this year-citing that the stated 13% wage gap was bogus. A young airman from Hill AFB responds to her article below. He ought to get a bonus for this!

Ms. Williams:

I just had the pleasure of reading your column of 12 Nov, "Our GIs earn enough" and I am a bit confused. Frankly, I'm wondering where this

Book Review

For all those who remember the good times in the Army, this book should bring back old memories. Tony is smart in that he has recorded his experiences for the rest of us to enjoy. Typical Army, where we could make light of all that happens around us. We remember the good things, but not the bad. This is how Tony meant this book to be.

Green Mules - Green Giants

This is the story of Tony Easterby's exploits in 4 RAR over the period 1965 to 1968 and traces the life and times of Tony through Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam. The book at \$22.00 plus \$6.00 handling & postage is available from Tony at **27 Opal Drive, Edgewater WA 6027**. Cheques or Money Orders should be made out to "Tony Easterby". You can call Tony on **(08) 9405 4205**.

Tony served as a Section Commander in Bravo Company and his story moves away from the blood and gore and relates the humour of the Australian Serviceman.

Award Of First National Service Medals

The Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Danna Vale MP today presented the first Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal to the families of seven former national servicemen who were killed in operations during the Vietnam War.

The presentations took place at a Remembrance Memorial Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony conducted by the National Servicemen's Association of Australia at Martin Place in Sydney. A similar service and ceremony was conducted in Brisbane.

Minister Vale said the presentation of

· Consider the extent to which the medical, social and vocational rehabilitation needs of compensation pensioners are being adequately met; and

· Make recommendations on possible improvements in benefits and support programs to address any identified deficiencies, including the potential to restructure benefits and programs in order to assist the funding of desired reforms.

Conduct of Review

In examining issues and developing options, the committee should plan to seek submissions from and meet with veteran organisations and other interested parties at the appropriate time.

In its deliberations the committee will need to bear in mind the commitment of the Government to responsible economic management.

The committee will report to the Minister no later than mid-November 2002. The Government would expect to examine options identified by the committee with a view to considering any appropriate changes for the year 2003/04.

Administrative Arrangements

The review and associated costs will be met by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Defence, including office accommodation and travel expenses.

The Departments of Veterans' Affairs and Defence will provide secretariat and administrative support, including the preparation of documents and assisting the committee by giving advice and briefings on specific matters.

Danna Vale MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence

the first medals marked the 50th anniversary of the introduction of universal conscription in Australia and was an important occasion marking the nation's gratitude for the contribution of National Servicemen.

"National Servicemen, or Nasho's as they became known, were conscripted from all walks of life into military service during the 50's, 60's and 70's," Minister Vale said.

"Of the more than 300,000 National Servicemen who served in the Army, Navy and Airforce during this time, 187 paid the ultimate sacrifice, and some 1,500 were wounded during their service.

"Conscription was not universally approved in Australia, yet despite significant social tension, National Servicemen proudly served their country through some very difficult times in our domestic and international environments.

"This commemorative medal is a physical reminder of their efforts, and an important symbol that the people of Australia are extremely grateful for the service and sacrifice of our National Servicemen.

"More than 25,000 applications have been received to date and I look forward to National Servicemen wearing their medal with pride."

BACKGROUNDER - Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal

This new commemorative medal has been established to mark the 50th Anniversary of the introduction of post-World War II national service. The medal is the Government's way of publicly acknowledging those who served in the two national service schemes from 1951-1972. Some 325,811 national servicemen participated in these schemes.

BACKGROUND NATIONAL SERVICEMEN

Between 1951 - 1959 more than 227,000 young Australians undertook a period of full-time and part-time service under the national service scheme.

From January 1965 through until December 1972, a further 63,000 national servicemen gave between 18 months and two years of full-time service. In addition more than 30,000 Australians elected to complete their national service obligation as members of the Citizens Military Force under the 1965-1972 national service scheme.

National servicemen saw service during the mid 1960's in Malaysia and Borneo during the Indonesian Confrontation, and some 17,400 served with distinction in South Vietnam.

The "Original" Horse's Mouth

The Editor of the Horse's Mouth was recently handed (ON LOAN of course) a copy of a local publication for the old Perth Workshop Company called the Horse's Mouth.

To coin a phrase he was gobsmacked! Committee decided upon the name of our magazine and we had no idea that this publication existed. Anyway, it is now our job to continue with the tradition that Perth Workshop Company had started. We are very grateful to Laurie Forsyth for lending us the newsletter.

The editorial of the issue mentions a couple of people who will be remembered. Ian TURNER and Squeak NEW both were promoted to Sgt. and there was a fervent wish that they could survive "the Snake Pit" (that is the Sgt's Mess). Capt. Garside was congratulated for being the second best shot at the Pistol Shoot at Wanneroo

with # 8 buckshot, hardly big enough to stop a Black Lab. The dog stops for a moment, slightly confused, but continues on.

Another shot and this time the dog, still standing, becomes really confused and of course terrified, thinking these two geniuses have gone insane.

The dog takes off to find cover, under the brand new Navigator.

—————**BOOM!**—————

Dog and Navigator are blown to bits and sink to the bottom of the lake in a very large hole, leaving the two idiots standing there with this "I can't believe this happened" look on their faces.

The insurance company says that sinking a vehicle in a lake by illegal use of explosives is not covered. He still had yet to make the first of those \$560 a month payments!!

And you thought your day was not going well? BRRR!

Mobile Phones

Have you ever had a Mobile Phone lost or stolen? Well there is a way of stopping your phone being sold on to others and from being used by those not authorised to do so. Turn on your phone and dial "star-hash-zero-six-hash (*#06#)". This will give you a unique 15-digit number. This number is not applied to any other phone in the world.

Record the number and put it away in a safe place (If anyone has a memory like mine, make sure you tell your wife or partner, so that the safe place is not safe forever!! {Ed})

If your phone is lost or stolen, you can contact your phone provider and they will put a bar on that phone with the unique number. Nobody can ever use that phone again. It is, in effect, a

useless piece of junk.

However, if you find the phone, you can get it reinstated by visiting your provider and proving that the phone is yours.

Royal Australian Navy Detonates World War II Mine On Great Barrier Reef

The World War II anti-shiping (contact) mine half-buried in sand at Sudbury Reef, some 30 km south east of Cairns, was safely and successfully destroyed by a specialist Royal Australian Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal team at 10.30 am today, Friday February 1.

The expert team from HMAS Cairns, monitored by environmental officers from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, detonated the mine by attaching a small charge of explosive. Although 60 years old, the mine still contained almost all its explosive charge of some 200 kg of TNT.

Navy experts and Marine Environmental Officers had previously examined the mine and assessed that due to its unstable nature, it posed a high threat to persons and marine life in the area as well as posing an environmental threat to the reef. They found that it was too unstable to move safely and that the only means available for its removal was by a controlled detonation on site.

Navy and environmental officers who dived on the site soon after the explosion found it had left a hole in the sand approximately one metre deep and three metres wide. Due to the mine's location in sand away from coral, there was no damage to the reef. The dive confirmed there was minimal impact on the local environment and no damage to Sudbury Reef.

The divers also advised that the hole will be filled in by the movement of sand

exit back to the mainland. Not only that but, neither did we, or anyone else, envisage the terrible sacrifices and suffering that the local inhabitants of all these four British Islands, situated in the English Channel, were to experience over the imminent four years of their German occupation

With all the interest being directed towards getting to know as much as possible about this intended place of our future activities, we completely lost all interest in where we were actually going. Then suddenly the old call of “Land Ho”, from possibly the same source, was heard very distinctly again. This brought all of us firmly back to earth and diverted our attention to the forward end of the vessel from whence the call had sounded. Sure enough, on the far horizon a smudge of land was showing and very gradually becoming more distinct. Immediately our new found friend confirmed that this was, at last, “The Promised Land “ of “Jersey British Channel Islands“, or Jersey BCI.

22 Construction Reunion

The 22 Construction Squadron reunion is to be held on the 12th of April 2002 at the Ryan’s Club at 13 Field Squadron, Karrakatta from 1600 until the fall of the last soldier.

If you are an old member of 22 and would like to go and renew old acquaintances, **call Nev Clarke on 9342 5808** and let him know of your interest. He needs numbers for the catering. If you want a bed in Bullecourt Barracks for the night book with Nev early.

Rocket Scientists

You have to believe that people can be really stupid.

This is from a radio program, a true

report of an incident in Michigan:

A guy buys a brand new Lincoln Navigator for \$42,500 and has \$560 monthly payments. He and a friend go duck hunting in winter, and of course all the lakes are frozen. These two guys go out on the lake with the guns, the dog, and of course the new vehicle.

They drive out onto the lake ice and get ready. Now, they want to make some kind of a natural landing area for the ducks, something for the decoys to float on. In order to make a hole large enough to look like something a wandering duck would fly down and land on, it is going to take a little more effort than an ice hole drill. So, out of the back of the new Navigator comes a stick of dynamite with a short, 40-second fuse.

Now these two Rocket Scientists do take into consideration that they want to place the stick of dynamite on the ice at a location far from where they are standing (and the new Navigator). They don’t want to take the risk of slipping on the ice when they run from the burning fuse and possibly go up in smoke with the resulting blast.

They light the 40-second fuse and throw the dynamite. Remember a couple of paragraphs back when I mentioned the vehicle, the guns and the dog?

Let’s talk about the dog: A highly trained Black Lab used for RETRIEVING. Especially things thrown by the owner.

You guessed it; the dog takes off at a high rate of doggy speed on the ice and captures the stick of dynamite with the burning 40-second fuse about the time it hits the ice. The two men yell, scream, wave their arms and wonder what to do now. The dog, cheered on, keeps coming.

One of the guys grabs the shotgun and shoots the dog. The shotgun is loaded

Range. (How’s the shooting now, Roger?). Anyway he got a hearty well done from the troops. Jim Satchell was also congratulated for his 34th Anniversary at the Workshops on 01 May 1983. It’s an awful long time to spend in one place.

The most important pages in the issue was Corps Instruction No 2 (the RAEME Badge) with its full description. “ **Above a lightning flash a horse forcene with a coronet of four fleur-de-lis, a chain reflexed over its back and standing on a globe. Above, a crown upon a scroll bearing the inscription R.A.E.M.E.**”

This is the statement that all RAEME Wackers should know by heart. The very basis of our Corps Badge.

It seems as though rifle and pistol shooting was very important in those days. We next have an article about those who missed the start of a range shoot because of a mix up in their transport to work. Squeak New, Sid (Can anyone identify him positively?), Kev LAWLER and his wife Trish. Squeak had a bit of a problem with his giggle hat when he gave it to his baby daughter to play with. She promptly vomited and, you guessed it, not a drop on the floor. It was all in Squeaks giggle hat.

Two more well known local identities also featured in the range shoot, Frank NIPPERUS and Major Ian STEWART, now our Honorary Colonel.

Dave Ashcroft featured in the newsletter with the comment that he was so inebriated when watching “The War Years (Channel 2) that he went to sleep and didn’t get to see who won the war!

And then—— Dodgy & Blue (names please from the old Perth Workshop Wallahs) went fishing recently in Blue’s boat. Not only did they catch a bucket of fish, but Blue also hooked a squid,

which, appropriately squirted it’s BLUE ink all over Blue’s head. As we all know, red and blue make purple. But we are pleased to announce that Blue was “UNMAUVED” by the experience.

And a SPRUNG NOTICE!! A Canadian fellow shooter asked Capt. Garside what the little red badge on his pistol-shooting cap was for. “Its for representing the Army in Inter Service Sports”, came the reply, “but, its not mine, my wife got it for playing Inter service Netball”! (Roger, it seems as though somebody was having a go at you in this publication!).

Finally, a short conversation between Squeak New and Sid while Squeak was filling out a FEME 61.

Squeak “Hey Sid!”,

Sid “Yeah?”

Squeak “What’s this Equipment Source Code business?”

Sid “Rosella or HP, normally”,

Squeak “HP, is it?”

Sid “Yeah!”

Squeak “Thanks!”. (The pen very nearly got to the form!!)

Elsewhere in this publication is a poem attributed to Mrs. Ian Turner. Some of you may remember her and Ian. Find it, you will have a good laugh at the expense of the sergeants.

Even 22 Construction Workshop had a page in the original Horse’s Mouth. One little story, which would have given an OHS Officer apoplexy, was the following (naming names some of whom you will recognise if you have been in the system for a while. For others who haven’t been around for quite so long, think about the Workshop area at 13 CSSB, that’s where it happened):

“Unsafe acts seem to have a funny side to them when nobody gets hurt. Not one, or two; but three Crafties were huddled around a W36 Fork in protection from the rain shower that had

just hit. The task was to replace the feed hose to the hydraulic pump, which required the reservoir tank to be drained first.

With no thought of the fact that the Hydraulic Tank was a pressurized system, Mario Fiannaca began undoing the drain plug of the tank. When it was almost undone, he said the Ian Booth that it seemed to have some pressure behind it. Picking up a bucket Boothy said, "I'll hold this up near it so we don't make a mess." "Good idea" says Dave Marshall, still sheltering from the rain.

"WHOOSH", the drain plug went flying; the oil hit Boothy's bucket easily, but the force behind it sent him flying back 2 metres into a Cyclone Fence. And oil sprayed another 3 metres into the "Q" Yard. Luckily no one was hurt, except for some pride with one covered in oil, and another two searching desperately for the tank drain plug."

Other people mentioned in the 22 CONST SQN page were LCPL Jordan remustered from a Roach to a Clerk Prod and Rod Lee remustered from Roach to a Reccy Mech.

Finally on the 22 page was the following little bit of typical Army:

" We always have disputes with illnesses, injuries and phantom sicknesses. It was beyond belief when an NCO was told he couldn't do sport 'cos he was on a chit with restricted use of his right arm. Then, in the same breath he was told to take Battle PT the following morning. (Sounds typical Army).

Did You Know?

South Australia had a SGT Armourer as early as 1858 on their military establishment.

It's Worth Watching Your Blood Pressure

Mobile phones, laptop computers, digital cameras - depending on your occupation or your point of view, these devices are either expensive gimmicks or essential tools of trade.

Nevertheless, whatever our personal thoughts may be, there is no doubt products such as these can bring great benefits to the community. So it is with newly developed electronic equipment used in medicine. For example, modern blood pressure measuring machines, miniature in size, are both accurate and easy to use. They offer doctors and patients a simple way to monitor one of the high risk factors for heart disease.

Heart and blood vessel disease remains Australia's number one killer. It affects nearly 2.5 million Australians and last year accounted for more than 50,000 deaths. High blood pressure increases our risk of cardiovascular disease. Also, high levels of cholesterol in the blood, smoking, being overweight and not being regularly active all make it more likely we will become one of those statistics. Of course everyone must have some blood pressure. The pressure is needed to get blood around our body - in other words to circulate. If there is no pressure; there is no circulation.

Our blood pressure will rise and fall during the day depending on our activity; but when the pressure remains constantly higher than necessary, even when we are resting, we have the condition known as hypertension (i.e. high blood pressure).

If you have hypertension you may need medicines to lower your blood pressure; and when this is the case, it is likely you will need to take medicines

over 30 hours or more, including an extremely rough sea crossing, and could well do with a little respite. For ourselves, upon seeing the presumed "Promised Land " slowly dissolves into the distance, our immediate aspirations dissolved with it and most of us just lost all our original enthusiasm for the enterprise. In fact, at that point in time, I think most us couldn't have cared less where we were going.

It was whilst we were leaning on the rails dismally perusing the passing of the presumed "Promised Land" that, a boy from one of the other sections, wandered over to our side of the vessel and leant up beside me on the rails. This fellow was equally, if not more, distressed with the passing of " Promised Land" than any of us were. I wondered about this for a moment or two then told him not to worry too much as we were bound to arrive at what-ever destination we were bound for very shortly now. Especially as they had brought us all up on deck with our gear.

That was when he dropped the bombshell on us. In a few seconds he gave us the answer to that all-important question of, "where were we going?" He merely said, "Yes, he knew that we were to disembark shortly but, had hoped we were disembarking at the "Island of Guernsey" that we had just passed as it was his home. As there was a R.A.S.C. barracks there, he had been hoping that would be our destination ever since we embarked on the vessel, which he knew traveled that route from Southampton.

Naturally all those of our group within hearing distance were immediately "dumb-struck ". After all this time of wondering where we were bound here, suddenly "out of the blue" was someone who, not only knew where we were but also actually lived in the vicinity. Naturally it took a few moments for us

all to get over the original shock, and of course there was a degree of scepticism from one or two members of our group who decided to disbelieve him.

Then, having recovered somewhat we all asked him the same question at once "where are we?" He seemed quite surprised that we didn't already know. Then said quite "off handedly " that we were in the area of the " Channel Islands " and having passed "Alderney " and "Sark" earlier that morning we were just then passing his home island of " Guernsey". That only left " Jersey " which had to be our intended final destination.

Whilst there was a general feeling of relief upon finally knowing where we were to be serving the initial part of our service, there were very few of us who knew very much about the Channel Islands, and many who had never heard of them before. Certainly virtually no one, except of course our now very popular informant, had any idea where these Islands were situated geographically, or who inhabited them etc. As a result our informant and new found friend of our group, was inundated with all the "what's?" "Why's?" and "where-fore's?" of this mysterious Island of " Jersey " where we were to be ensconced for possibly the next four years of our lives.

Unfortunately the poor fellow had never been to Jersey himself, although he lived so near. As a result he was not able to give us too much detailed insight into the place. But from what he had heard, and his knowledge of his own Home Island of Guernsey, he was able to provide a reasonable picture of what we could expect.

Little did we know at that time what a relatively short period of time we were actually going to stay in this beautiful island of Jersey, and the circumstances that were to later require our expeditious

Boy Service Nostalgia.

So far we have followed Peter into an unknown destination. For the boys that comprised his group it must have been a very daunting exercise. Where were they going? What was going to happen? Let's read on and see what they were up to.....

Episode 6

No sooner had our subsequent elation over this great discovery begun to show it's self physically, as well as verbally, than a sudden, and what was by now becoming a familiar and somewhat anticipated roar, emanated from the sergeant in charge of our current deck activities. He was instructing us to return immediately to our respective accommodation decks and remain there until we received further instructions.

We were stirred by the excitement of the fact that things were finally going to happen and that we were nearing the end of this extended journey. Now we would know the final answer as to where we were going. The excitement brought about instant reaction to this instruction with a resultant mad dash by all concerned towards the bulkhead door and down the steel staircase. By the time our group had all assembled on our respective deck, contentions as to whether or not the land mass we had just viewed was really our intended disembarkation venue, and if so, where was this place? Rumours were running rife. I was beginning to feel a little like the "Israelites" approaching the "Promised Land" and could readily relate to the feelings of the "Pilgrim Fathers" as they first viewed the shores of America.

The two prime contenders for our final venue being the north of "Scotland" and "Northern Ireland". Both of which, being well known British Army bases,

made them sound like good common sense assertions. Especially the latter, in view of the sea trip we had just suffered. We could not, at that time, think of any other sea crossing from England with such a reputation.

As a result we were now virtually convinced that we were about to spend the first few years of our service in or around Belfast. Little did we know how very far out our contentions really were. Further more if we had used our brains in this regard we would have done the obvious. That is, asking one of the several boys from Northern Ireland, who were in this intake but in a different group, if circumstances of this voyage indicated the possibility of it taking them back home again.

Our corporal then duly arrived and instructed us to collect all our personal belongings and stand by our bunks awaiting further instructions. After which he, as usual, disappeared leaving us once again to contemplate our next move. At last the instructions were given to once again proceed to the main deck and line up in our current group there with all our chattels.

When we finally reached the deck and duly arranged ourselves as instructed we naturally presumed that, by this time the land mass we had previously seen would be prominent and we would be about to disembark to it. That the land mass concerned was more prominent was true, but was still some distance away. Not only that but, where it had been dead ahead of us when we went back to our deck, it was now several miles away on the right-hand side of the vessel, and to our horror we were obviously passing it with nothing else in sight.

It was at this particular time when, in hind sight, I believe the R.A.S.C. Staff in charge of our contingent realised that we had already been travelling for well

forever.

The concept of taking medicines regularly and forever is sometimes difficult to accept especially when, in the case of high blood pressure, there are no immediately noticeable symptoms. In fact, occasionally the medicines themselves have unwanted effects. They may make you feel drowsy, dizzy or nauseous.

If such effects occur, you should tell your doctor or pharmacist. There may be more suitable medicines or there may be another way to manage the problem. Even so, in treating high blood pressure, the best single piece of advice you could receive is to take your medicines regularly day after day.

However, we can certainly reduce the need for medicines, of maybe lower the doses needed with some simple lifestyle changes.

A healthy diet is particularly important in controlling blood pressure and reducing the risk of heart disease. Healthy eating is about balance and variety. This includes eating foods low in salt and drinking alcohol in moderation. It is advisable to have no more than two drinks a day.

Controlling weight is also an important step in reducing the risk of developing high pressure.

Twice yearly indexation of Military superannuation pensions

The Government will introduce twice yearly indexation for military superannuation pensions commencing on 1 January 2002, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Scott, announced today.

"Pensions paid under the Defence

Force Retirement Benefits (DFRB) scheme, the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) scheme and the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS) will be included in this process," Mr. Scott said.

"This change will bring indexation arrangements for military superannuation pensions into line with the revised indexation arrangements for Commonwealth public service pensions announced in the 2001 Federal Budget.

"This decision was made following advice from Major General Barry Nunn, Head of the External Review into Remuneration Arrangements for the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

"Indexation arrangements for military superannuation pensions will now be consistent with those applying to Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS) and Public Sector Superannuation (PSS) scheme pensions.

"The Government has moved quickly to implement twice yearly indexation."

Legislation will be introduced into the Federal Parliament shortly to ensure this change to indexation arrangements is introduced concurrently with the changes to public service pensions.

"This swift implementation will ensure the necessary legislative changes can be made in time to allow for the 1 January 2002 implementation," said Mr. Scott

Currently DFRB, DFRDB and MSBS pensions are adjusted in July each year to reflect any increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that has occurred during the preceding 12 month period ending in the March quarter of that year. Under the current indexation change, all military pensions were increased by six per cent from 1 July 2001.

“Under twice yearly indexation arrangements pensions will be adjusted on 1 January and 1 July each year, reflecting any increase in the CPI for the six months ending in the September quarter and March quarter.

“I am confident the more than 55,000 recipients of military superannuation pensions will welcome today’s indexation arrangements announcement,” Mr. Scott said.

9RAR National Reunion Melbourne 2002

Former members of 9RAR will be gathering in Melbourne over the weekend 22 - 24 November 2002 for their National Reunion. Further information contact Rod McLennan (08) 9381 4851.

Centenary of Sappers 2002

This year is the Centenary of the Royal Australian Engineers service to Australia. All ex sappers of any vintage whatsoever are urged to make contact with their Corps thru the RAE Association of WA. Find out what celebrations are planned here in WA and throughout the nation to commemorate this important occasion. The celebrations start in Februaryif you have not had contact for years with old mates now is the time to rebuild old allegiances. Ring Mick Ryan on 08-93072385 or Nev Clark on 08-93425808. We also wish our comrades in the Royal New Zealand Engineers a fine Centenary year.
Mick Ryan OAM
President
RAEA -WA
4 Milne Court
Ocean Reef. 6027
Tel 08-93072385.

Vale

It is with sadness that we must inform members of the passing, in Victoria, of the following members of the Corps:

Lottie McCoubrie

Bill Challons

Geoff Maggs

Lest We Forget

Our condolences go out to the family of Sgt. Russell killed in Afghanistan last month. Even though he was not of our Corps, we still feel his loss as a Brother in Arms.

Fallen Soldier Arrives Home

The body of Sergeant Russell arrived in Australia in the early hours of Friday 22 February.

A Guard and Bearer Party comprised of Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) personnel accompanied family members to meet the aircraft.

SGT Russell’s body was taken from the aircraft draped in the Australian Flag with his sandy beret on top, carried through the Guard, placed in a vehicle and taken away.

SGT Russell tragically lost his life as a result of a mine incident in southern Afghanistan on February 16th 2002.

A private funeral will be held for SGT Russell.

The family of SGT Russell greatly appreciates the sympathy and wishes of the Australian public, but ask that the media please respect the privacy of the family at this difficult time.

www.dva.gov.au.

DVA Service pensioners and DVA Commonwealth Seniors Health Cardholders who meet the eligibility criteria will automatically receive the new card by December 2001.

British, Commonwealth and Allied veterans who hold a White Card under agreements between the Australian Government and other governments for disabilities accepted as war-caused should apply for the new card if they believe they are eligible.

The White Cards should continue to be used to obtain treatment and medications in relation to their accepted disabilities. The Orange Card can be used to obtain medicines for other conditions. It does not entitle veterans to any medical or other health treatment.

Any British, Commonwealth or Allied veteran who think that they may be eligible should call DVA on 133 254, or visit www.dva.gov.au to obtain or download a claim form (No D2622). Alternatively, contact your welfare Officers.

Our Frank

Lt Col. Frank Parker was accepted as an Army apprentice on 31st of August 1939 at aged 16. He and some other boys were due to start training at Perth Ordnance Workshop on Sep 4th, the day after war was declared. Of this episode he says; “ On Monday the Boss came early. The staff did not know whether it was because the war had started or the apprentices had started, but the apprentices got the blame for it”.

From the Corps History Book

If our Project gets off the ground, we hope to hear more of the misadventures of our Frank.

Marches of the Royal Australian Regiment

The first release of this CD has quickly been sold out. The RAR Foundation has arranged for a second release.

The CD contains all the marches of the Battalions of the Regiment, featuring the Pipes and Drums of the Regiment, the Australian Army Band Sydney and the Band of the Royal Military College Duntroon. There are 23 tunes on the CD.

The cost of each CD is \$15.00 with an extra \$2.00 for postage and handling. Send your cheque, money order made out to “The Royal Australian Regiment Fund” and post it to The Royal Australian Regiment Foundation, PO Box 3112, CANBERRA, ACT 2601.

Vietnam Tour

Bob McDonnell, formerly Mortar Platoon, 3RAR first tour advises that tours are available for groups wishing to visit Vietnam to participate in the ANZAC DAY Service at Long Tan. The group leaves in mid April. The tour costs \$3,822.00 for the 18 day fully escorted tour. If you require further information or wish to join the tour, **contact Bob on (08) 9451 4669**

3rd Cavalry Regiment Reunion

A reunion will be held from 24th to 28th of April 2002 in Fremantle, WA. Members of RAEME, RAE and RAA and other Corps attached to or supported armoured units welcome. **Contact Terry Stidwell, PO Box 1141, Wangara, WA 6847 or by phone on 0408 955 465**

employee must:

- * complete a 14-day qualifying period. This period may be completed in blocks of no less than five days; and
- * any periods being claimed must each be a minimum of five days service.

Employers can obtain further information by ringing 1800 803 485 or from www.defence.gov.au/reserves

Welfare Corner

This issue we are going to look at a couple of articles that can affect us all.

Beware of mail fraud

Older people can be vulnerable to mail fraud and can be targeted by fraudsters with a range of scams such as requests for donations to bogus charities, bogus lotteries, selling goods of little or no value at inflated prices, chain letters and pyramid schemes.

Community awareness is a key to reducing and preventing fraud by assisting seniors to recognise mail scams no matter what form they take. A joint Queensland Government and National Crime Prevention Project - Towards a Safer Australia, recommends a number of simple rules that can reduce exposure to mail fraud;

- Beware of any mail offer you have not requested;
- Never give credit cards details or bank account numbers to someone you don't know;
- Buy from traders/services you know and trust;
- Never make a decision immediately, take your time and get advise from a trusted friend, accountant, lawyer or the Officer of Fair Trading/ Consumer Affairs;
- Keep a record of your transactions; and
- Tell your friends and the Office of

Fair Trading or Consumer Affairs about possible dodgy letters.

For further information on mail fraud contact your local Fair Trading or Consumer Affairs Office. You can also get information from www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au

Pharmaceutical Benefits for Veterans

British, Commonwealth and Allied Veterans including Mariners, living in Australia who served in World War I or World War II will benefit from extended eligibility for the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

From January the 1st 2002, the new Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Card (Orange Card) give eligible British, Commonwealth and Allied veterans access to the extended range of prescription medicines and pharmaceutical items available under the RPBS at the concessional rate of \$3.60, with a maximum cost of \$187.20 in a year. Entitled veterans will receive a pharmaceutical allowance of %5.80 per fortnight. This means that the maximum amount a veteran will be required to pay per calendar year is \$36.40. Note that the concessional co-payment and the pharmaceutical allowance are both indexed to 1st of January each year in accordance with the movements in the Consumer Price Index.

The card will be provided to British, Commonwealth and Allied veterans and mariners who are aged 70 years or over, have qualifying service from WWI or WWII, and have been resident in Australia for 10 years or more.

Qualifying Service is defined in the Veteran's Entitlements Act 1986. Details of what qualifying service means for you are available from your nearest DVA Office or from the DVA fact sheet on the Departments website at

Mrs. Kylie Russell would like to release the following statement:

My husband arrived home last night and was received by members of his Regiment with full military honours. To me and other family members this has provided an opportunity for Andrew to be honoured by the Army which was very much a part of his life. The time has now come for his family to mourn his loss privately and for that reason, we have chosen to lay Andrew to rest during a private rather than military funeral.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone nationally and internationally for their sincere condolences and support over recent days, and I ask that the media respect my wishes to say goodbye away from the public eye.

Lest We Forget

Defence Honours Aussie WW2 Heroes

The Department of Defence today paid tribute to two World War 2 heroes with a moving ceremony in which the Secretary, Dr Allan Hawke, and the Chief of the Defence Force, Admiral Chris Barrie unveiled commemorative plaques and named two roads around Defence Headquarters at Russell in their honour.

The heroes are Nursing Sister Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel and Captain Reg Saunders, the first Aboriginal soldier commissioned into the Australian Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Bullwinkel enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service in May 1941. She was posted to Malaya and was subsequently evacuated with other nurses after the

fall of Singapore in February 1942.

However, Japanese aircraft sank the ship. Nurse Bullwinkel was one of 22 surviving nurses who finally made it to shore, where they tried to surrender to Japanese soldiers. Instead, the Japanese massacred the women. Though badly wounded Nurse Bullwinkel survived. A few days later she was again arrested and spent the rest of the war in various internment camps in Borneo and Malaya where she continued to provide care to the ill and wounded. She then served in Japan between 1946 and 1947 when she resigned from the Army in the rank of Captain.

She rejoined the CMF in 1955 and continued to serve until 1970 when she retired in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. She then continued as Director of Nursing at Melbourne's Fairfield Hospital until 1977. During her long and distinguished medical career she received many honours including the MBE, Order of Australia and Florence Nightingale Medal.

According to Admiral Barrie Colonel Bullwinkel epitomised the courage, endurance and sacrifice of Australia's wartime nurses.

"Today is an occasion where we can honour Vivian's contribution to the Australian Defence Force.

"Sister Bullwinkel passed away in July 2000 and although Australia is a lesser place for this her memory will live on in the hearts of many Australians. She lived a blessed life, which we are here to celebrate.

"We will never forget the sacrifices and courage of Australian Nurses and Vivian Bullwinkel's example will live with us forever," Admiral Barrie said.

Captain Reg Saunders enlisted in the Army in 1940, following in the footsteps of his father and uncle who had fought

in France in World War I. He displayed outstanding leadership qualities, a personable nature and sporting skills that saw him recommended for officer training. He was promoted to Lieutenant and saw service with 6th Division in the Middle East, Greece and New Guinea.

Lieutenant Saunders resigned at the end of the war but re-enlisted with the outbreak of the Korean War. Promoted to Captain, he was posted Company Commander of C Company with 3 Battalion and was with the Battalion at the Battle of Kapyong.

Posted back to Australia Captain Saunders was involved in the training of 2RAR for its service in Korea before resigning from the Army in 1954.

Reg Saunders then applied his leadership, wartime training experience and impressive personal character to the promotion of the Aboriginal people and the issues confronting them. He joined the then Department of Aboriginal Affairs and from then until his death in 1990 he worked tirelessly, travelling widely and meeting Aborigines from a wide range of backgrounds.

Dr Hawke described Reg Saunders as a soldier in peace and war.

“Reg came from a warrior heritage, as personified by both his father and uncle as well as himself. He fought for his country in time of war and his people in time of peace with the same unswerving passion and devotion to duty.

“He was a great leader and an exceptional Australian whose place in both Australia’s and Aboriginal history can never be diminished by time,” Dr Hawke said.

As most would know Vivian Statham (nee Bullwinkel) was an

Associate member of our Association. She and her husband, who did so much for our Corps, are sadly missed by those who knew them. (Ed)

Helping Hand for Reservists and Their Bosses

Help is on the way for Defence Force Reservists and their civilian employers and educators trying to balance Defence Force service with civilian obligations, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Danna Vale MP, announced today.

“Reservists make a vital contribution to Australia’s defence capability, as evidenced by their involvement in East Timor and Bougainville, and to the wider community, such as their involvement in the Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games,” Minister Vale said.

“The Federal Government acknowledges that this contribution would not be possible without the support of the community in general, and employers and educators in particular.

“To maintain and further encourage this support, the Federal Government has established the Office of Reserve Service Protection, within the Defence Department, to provide information and mediation services and investigate complaints from employers or employees regarding the release of Reservists to attend military training.

“For example, a Reservist can appeal to the Office if they experience discrimination in the workplace or educational institution because of their Defence Force obligations; or an employer can seek assistance in negotiating Defence Force leave with their employee’s Reservist unit.

“The Office can explain to employers or

educational institutions the conditions under which they must grant leave for Defence service and help them reduce the impact of that leave on their business.”

Minister Vale said the Office was established as a result of legislation passed earlier this year regarding Reserve service.

The Defence Reserve Service Protection legislation protects Reservists against discrimination in their employment or education because of their ADF service.

“It is imperative that we ensure that those Australians who serve this nation as part of the Reserves, and the employers and educators who support them, can do so safe in the knowledge that their interests are adequately protected.”

The Office of Reserve Service Protection can be contacted on **1800 100 166 or by email: orsp@defence.gov.au.**

Government Supports Employers Of Reservists

The Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Danna Vale MP, today urged employers of Australian Defence Force Reservists to apply for assistance through the Federal Government’s Reserves Employer Support Payment scheme.

Under the scheme, employers of ADF Reservists and self-employed members can receive \$809.70 a week in compensation for releasing employees to serve in the Reserve.

“The Federal Government recognises that balancing the needs of workplaces with employees’ Reserve service obligations can be difficult for some

businesses,” Minister Vale said.

“Reservists make a vital contribution to Australia’s defence capability, and the Government appreciates the willingness of employers to accommodate their employees’ Reserve obligations.”

Almost \$3 million has already been paid to employers of Defence Force Reserves since the scheme was launched in June.

“The Reserves Employer Support Payment scheme is good news for employers, good news for our community and good news for Australia’s Defence Force,” Minister Vale said.

“Employers are compensated for releasing their employees, the rural economy benefits from the extra injection of money and the Defence Force trains Reservists who are supported by their employer.

“Many seasonal workers, including sons and daughters of farmers, are members of the Reserves.

“Unfortunately, many local employers who have Reservist employees may not know they are eligible to receive these payments.”

Minister Vale reminded employers they had six months from the time their employee begins each period of continuous defence service in which to claim their payment.

Eligible employers include:

- employers of full-time or part-time employees;
- employers who are sole traders, in partnerships, operate practices or business enterprises;
- self-employed Reservists; and
- State, Territory and local government departments and agencies; Commonwealth agencies, but not Commonwealth Government Departments.

Before an employer can claim ESP an